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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you intend to join this Saturday's rally of indigenous residents to oppose Interior's recommendation to grant improved status for long-term alien workers?

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INSIDE



Grand Recital

Violin students of the Do Re Mi Music School shine in a two-night grand recital.

LOCAL...Page 2



Tough Words

South Korea's president says North Korea would pay for the torpedo attack that killed 46 sailors.

ASIA...Page 15



Royal Scandal

Ferguson is recorded offering to sell access to her ex-husband Prince Andrew for \$724,000.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

'Bad economy makes litter control officers reluctant to issue \$200 fine'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In these tough economic times, issuing a \$200 minimum littering fine is not an

easy job.

Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman said there has been reluctance on the part of certified litter control officers to issue citations

because of the steep fines, and this has resulted in the absence of citations issued in recent period.

"There have been fines for littering in the past but not in the recent past," he said.

In the CNMI, littering carries a minimum fine of \$200 but not greater than \$500.

"Many of the apprehending officers

See ECONOMY on Page 4

FOR MOST GOVT CONTRACT EMPLOYEES

70-hour work cuts begin

» Civil service employees yet to get pay cut



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Majority of the close to 400 excepted service or contract employees within the Executive Branch began reporting on a 70-hour work week yesterday, press secretary Angel Demapan said.

See 70-HOUR on Page 4

VIEW FROM THE SHIP

With the island of Saipan in the background, the USNS Maj. Stephen W. Pless is one of the prepositioning ships under the U.S. Military Sealift Command currently anchored off the Saipan Lagoon. On certain weekends, visitors are allowed to tour the 821-foot mammoth ship, which carries tons of equipment and supplies for the U.S. Marines.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

DPL: MRDC's \$300M casino project still a go

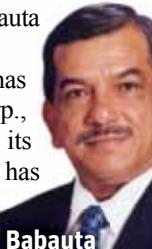
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A third major investor is still making good on its promise to build a \$300 million casino on Tinian, unlike two other investors whose project plans totaling \$1.8 billion fell through, Public Lands

Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday.

Babauta said Marianas Resort Development Corp., MRDC, is current in its land lease payments and has the necessary financial

See DPL on Page 4



Kaipat slams ICE's Haley for 'inflammatory' claim

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Labor deputy chief Cinta Kaipat bristled at the suggestion that her department is not cooperating with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and reminded

an ICE spokesperson that the CNMI is not "a colony."

In a statement issued yesterday, Kaipat said that ICE spokeswoman Lori K. Haley's allegation that Labor was not respond-

See KAIPAT on Page 4



Sichuan Airlines mulls charter flights to Saipan. PAGE 3
2 NMI students named to West Point, Naval Academy. PAGE 6



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Local

Young violinists shine in 2-day grand recital



Do Re Mi Music School founder Ao Zhang, standing right, poses with members of his violin class after the two-hour grand recital Saturday night at Pacific Islands Club. This year marked the 20th annual violin recital for the school and featured 43 musicians and 19 special performances.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Violin students of the Do Re Mi Music School shone during a two-night grand recital over the weekend that highlighted the talents of its 43 students and wowed a jampacked crowd at Pacific Islands Club's Charley Cabaret.

The crowd, composed mostly of the students' families and supporters, was just as excited as the performers, giving enthusiastic applause to each of the 19 special performances, held Friday and Saturday night.

A 12-member group started off the program with a variation to the lullaby *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, quickly segueing to more complex violin pieces such as *Allegro Brillante*, *Concert No. 2 and 3 movement*, *Sonata in A Major 4th movement*, *Scherzo-Tarantella*, *Aria on a G-string*, *Concert for Two Violins*, and many others.

School founder Ao Zhang expressed delight at the public's support for the concert, praised the parents and families for their active involvement, and promised a bigger show next year to accommodate the public demand.

This year marks Do Re Mi's 20th annual violin recital. The school was founded on Saipan in April 1992.

Zhang said it has been fulfilling to teach children of all ages and ethnicity how to play the violin. "I am very fortunate and proud to have worked with many amateur as well as professional students," he said.

He said many of his students have gone straight to the

prestigious Juilliard School or Peabody Music Institute and many have won awards when participating in off-island competitions such as the Guam Tumon Bay Music Festival, CNMI Little Big Star Competition, Beijing's Young Artist Competition, and China's Chang Chun Young Artist Competition.

"It gives me pleasure and pride to see our students perform on stage for their family and friends. Thank you for all your constant support and encouragement. It has helped them achieve their full music potential," Zhang said.

Tatiana Calvo, a sophomore at Mount Carmel School, has been with Do Re Mi Music School for eight years and has been performing in the grand recital for six years.

"I love playing the violin since I was a kid. I can say that throughout my eight years in the music school, it taught me discipline and hard work," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Calvo performed *Allegro Brillante*, accompanied on the piano by Young Mi Kim.

Ten-year-old Alan Yu of Saipan Community School described his two years with the school as "very memorable." Like the other students, he said he enjoys playing the violin and the beautiful music it creates.

Parents interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* at the concert expressed their appreciation to Ao Zhang for being patient with their children. They said they were amazed to see their children on stage, confidently performing in front of a big crowd.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Promoting the Northern Marianas in Our Primary Markets

Marketing and promotions are essential to attracting visitors to the Northern Mariana Islands. The biggest percentage of the **Marianas Visitors Authority's (MVA)** annual budget is spent on marketing in Japan and Korea, the NMI's primary tourism markets. This marketing is categorized under three types: travel trade marketing, public relations, and consumer promotions.



Travel trade marketing targets travel agents, airlines, and other tourism partners who are key partners in bringing visitors to the Northern Marianas. About 30 trade seminars are held each year by the MVA in Japan and Korea to acquaint travel agents with destination and the MVA's marketing strategies. Every year, the MVA helps organize dozens of agent FAM tours to bring leading travel wholesalers and retailers to the NMI so they can learn about the destination, firsthand. Tie-in promotions are implemented with airlines to help fill air seats. The MVA also undertakes group campaigns by offering incentives to travel partners increase their number of customers to the NMI.



Public relations are another key part of MVA marketing. Through effective public relations, millions of dollars in unpaid advertising is secured each year in newspapers, television, magazines, and other media. In many cases, the MVA helps coordinate media trips to the Northern Marianas to help attain this coverage. Public relations has proven a wise investment of the MVA's limited resources to help bring exposure to the islands.

Lastly, the MVA reaches out directly to potential visitors through consumer promotions. This includes participation in major trade and consumer shows- from travel to wedding to dive fairs- to showcase the unique offerings of the NMI destination. Tens of thousands of potential visitors have the opportunity to speak to the MVA personally about the Northern Marianas through these consumer shows. The MVA also targets specific segments of visitors with campaigns such as their Active Senior Campaign to entice senior citizens, Dive in Marianas 2010 for new divers or those who haven't dived in the Northern Marianas before, Happy Children in Paradise offering giveaways from the MVA and its partners to children who come with their families during the summers, and golf campaigns, which are particularly strong in Korea.

For more information on MVA marketing in Japan and Korea, visit the Members section of the official MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday May 28, 2010 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

AGENDA

1. Call to order – quorum
2. Approval of minutes of March 24, 2010 meeting
3. Docket 09-1 – CUC Electric Division.
 - LEAC rate – June 1, 2010 – September 30, 2010 [\$0.24446 per kWh]
 - CDA Preferred Stock Agreement
 - CUC Briefing on Accounts Receivable
4. Docket 10-01 – CUC Water and Wastewater Divisions.
 - Hearing Examiner's report on CUC January 31, 2010 rate petition, as amended – proposed rate order
5. Other business

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law B-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", Notice is hereby given that a Board Executive Meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2010, (Wednesday) beginning at 10:00 a.m., and if need be, to continue on May 27, 2010, (Thursday) at 9:30 a.m. at the Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building No. 1216, Saipan, MP. The following items are included in the agenda:

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A) Roll Call
 - B) Welcome
 - C) Introduction of New Board Members
 - D) Presence of Quorum
- II. Content Items
 - A) Review/Accord of Agenda
 - B) Review/Accord of Minutes-October 27, 2007
- III. New Business
 - A) Election of Board Secretary
 - B) Chairman's Report
 - C) Chief of Parole Report
 - D) Board's Policy on Unsupervised Parolee(s)
 - E) Review of the Proposed Board of Parole Uniform Policy
- IV. Old Business
 - A) Board's Policy of Reconsideration in the event of new information exists
 - B) Implementation of the Drug Testing Policy
 - C) Review of the Proposed Supervision Handbook
- V. Miscellaneous
 - A) Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting
- VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman, Board of Parole

Parent of special needs child elevates complaint to USDOE

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The father of a child with special needs elevated his complaint against the Public School System to the U.S. Department of Education yesterday, saying the Individualized Education Plan formulated for his daughter is not truly responsive to his daughter's needs.

Allan B. Vila said that PSS has only one occupational therapist and one speech language pathologist and this is not enough to meet his 8-year-old daughter's requirements.

Vila's daughter has pervasive developmental disorder and constantly needs the service of qualified experts in the field.

His 14-page complaint was filed electronically with the USDOE's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, a copy of which was also furnished to the office of Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Vila specifically asked the USDOE to examine his daughter's Individualized Education Plan and determine whether it is appropriate in this case. He also asked the federal agency to revisit teacher's quality, training and certification in the CNMI.

Vila first brought up this issue with Sablan in October last year. In November, PSS deemed the matter resolved, with Sablan denying claims that Vila's daughter was not being provided the needed services. Vila appealed the "resolution" and asked for documents proving that services were actually rendered to his daughter.

Vila said his complaint with the USDOE was prompted by the Board of Education's and PSS' failure to respond to his Jan. 3 letter.

"I believe the refusal of the CNMI-BOE to provide me copies of the requested documents contravenes the principles underlying Public Law 017-87 or the No Child Left Behind Act," Vila said, adding that the Act prescribes requirements about parental involvement, highly qualified teachers, scientifically based reading instruction, tutoring and supplemental educational services.

The law also includes a mandate for schools to measure each child's progress every year and to report these results to parents.

"In our case, I honestly believe that my daughter is not making any adequate progress in school," he said.

Vila said his request for adequate records seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

"I was not only provided the requested records but worse, I have never received any response at all to my now more than four-month-old letter," he said.

One of the concerns Vila raised in his January letter was the efficacy and quality of the services being provided his daughter.

"My apprehension is partly based on the prevailing therapist-children ratio which I believe seriously hampers full treatment and rehabilitation of my daughter," he said.

Although he understands the financial constraint of PSS that stymies its ability to hire more specialists for special children, Vila questioned PSS' lack of alternative, corrective measures.

"The problem with the therapist-student ratio that I pointed out is a serious concern. I am a concerned parent that has a stake in my daughter's treatment and rehabilitation," he said.

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Sichuan Airlines mulling charter flights to Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos said that Sichuan Airlines, one of the major domestic airlines in China, has been "exploring the possibility" of flying charter flights to Saipan but the company has yet to provide more information about its plans.

"We welcome that, but the company has certain formalities they need to go through, including U.S. Department of Transportation requirements," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Should the plan pan out,

Inos said the charter flights will fly from Sichuan to Incheon in South Korea, before coming to Saipan.

The acting governor said Sichuan Airlines will start with two charter flights weekly, using Airbus 340, which can carry some 300 passengers.

"We like to see Inos that happen. But I don't know how that will happen since Sichuan is supposed to be a domestic airline in China. They



plan to fly international. We don't know what's involved to get into international market," Inos added.

Inos said the CNMI government is glad to see foreign investors showing interest in the CNMI despite the economic difficulties.

But Sichuan Airlines is interested only in bringing in passengers, not investing in

hotels, although it could. "Their investment is not fixed on island. They buy airplanes, bring people over here

and make money by bringing in people. Here we get benefits because of the spending power of tourists. They also increase the occupancy rate for many of the vacant rooms here," Inos added.

Sichuan Airlines was established on Sept. 19, 1986, and began operation on July 14, 1988.

It is not the only investor planning to provide air service to the CNMI. Air Saipan, which changed its trading name to Saipan Airways early this year to cut the airline's association with the previous investor that failed to fulfill its initial commitment to fly to the CNMI in 2006, also intends to fly charter flights between China and Saipan.

In January this year, Air Saipan said it would be on island later that month or early February to launch the airline, but that launching has yet to happen.

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Delta donates school supplies to GCA

Photo shows, from left, Saipan-based Delta sales representatives Christopher A. Concepcion and Esther F. Sound presenting the check to Grace Christian Academy representatives Elaine Kinsella and Cora Casabella.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Air Lines recently donated \$1,000 in school and office supplies from National Office Supply to Grace Christian Academy. The proceeds were from the 2009 Delta Air Lines Golf Tournament for Children's Education. All funds raised at the annual tournament are donated to various children's educational charities or activities in the CNMI.

Delta Air Lines is the world's largest airline. A member of the SkyTeam Alli-

ance, it services every single continent except Antarctica. Delta is headquartered in Atlanta where it operates the world's busiest hub. Other hubs include Detroit, Cincinnati, Minneapolis-Saint Paul, New York City, Memphis, Salt Lake City, Tokyo/Narita, Amsterdam and Paris. Delta operates three daily flights between Saipan and Tokyo/Narita and will begin daily services to Nagoya in June. SkyMiles is Delta's frequent flier program. (PR)

KAIPAT

From Page 1

ing to ICE's requests relating to more than 500 deportation referrals was not true and even inflammatory.

"The Commonwealth should be treated as a partner. We are not a colony," she said.

Haley had yet to respond to an e-mail request for comments as of press time.

To make the Commonwealth and federal collaboration a success, Kaipat said it is necessary to have mutual respect for their respective roles and operational cooperation at working level between agencies. This operational cooperation, Kaipat said, should be done "without inflammatory defensive statements from public relations officials."

Haley told *Saipan Tribune* last week that ICE has repeatedly asked Labor to provide it additional biographical information on more than 500 deportation referrals, but Labor has yet to respond to these requests.

"ICE is ready to review and determine appropriate action on the DOL referrals as soon as we receive the necessary follow-up information," Haley had said.

Kaipat insists that Labor has facilitated ICE processes to remove illegal aliens, not delayed them.

"The statement made by Lory K. Haley, a public affairs officer and not an operational officer of ICE, is not correct," Kaipat said. "Ms. Haley may not be familiar with the situation here in the Commonwealth."

She said Labor has provided information to ICE officials in exactly the same manner they used to provide information to the CNMI Immigration Division.

"Our former Immigration Division deported between 200 and 300 illegal aliens each year. There is no reason ICE cannot do the same," she said.

Kaipat recommended that ICE use its authority under Section 287g of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide funding to local law enforcement officers to assist in locating and arresting aliens.

She said ICE has an Office of State and Local Coordination that operates this program nationwide and that many states participate in.

Kaipat also pointed to the failure of U.S. agencies to hire local people.

"I understand that ICE's personnel, assigned to the Commonwealth only on a temporary basis, may have a problem. If they need translators and informants to find people, they should use their resources to hire them. But one part of the problem stands out," she said.

Kaipat said ICE has not hired any of the former local Immigration Division inspectors to assist them.

"These people are very knowledgeable about the local immigration enforcement situation. I think this would be an obvious resource to tap. If ICE used local talent, with the information that the Labor Department formerly supplied to local officials and now supplies to ICE, they should have considerably more success," Kaipat noted.

Under former Commonwealth deportation processes, the Labor Department provided identification information to the Immigration Division on illegal aliens who formerly had held work permits.

Kaipat said the Immigration Division used that identification information to locate and arrest the named aliens. These people were then presented to Commonwealth prosecutors.

"Under our former deportation processes, the prosecutors would ask the alien for a current passport and a current permit allowing employment in the Commonwealth. If the alien did not have these credentials, they were deemed deportable. Of course, anyone can present a defense against the prosecution's challenge, but these cases moved quickly in the Commonwealth Superior Court," she said.

Kaipat said under the CNMI deportation processes, most of the cases were disposed of and the alien departed within 60 to 90 days.

"We provide the same identification information to ICE on a very timely basis, and we certify illegal status in the same way for ICE. That means, if ICE needs it, there is a Labor Department

vestors or financing institutions.

Neo Gold Wings planned to put up an ambitious \$1 billion casino resort on Tinian, and Flame Sako Resort & Spa planned an \$80 million hotel in Marpi. DPL already issued notices of termination to these investors, and the 60-day grace period ends this month. As of yesterday, nothing has been heard from these two Korean investors.

In November last year, MRDC chief executive officer and chair Kang Yun Lee said the soft opening for their "Pulan Hotel" will be in October 2012.

The casino resort sits on 1.36-million square meters of public lands on Tinian. It consists of a 405-room hotel/casino, a golf course, and a beach resort.

official ready to testify that the alien has no current permit to work in the Commonwealth," Kaipat said.

She criticized ICE for not deporting anyone in the six months they have been in charge of deportations in the Commonwealth.

"So now we have a public affairs officer, Ms. Haley, saying that it is our fault, not ICE's fault, for this rather astonishing record," she said.

Elsewhere in the United States, Kaipat explained, ICE officials are responsible for finding illegal aliens and creating the necessary information with which to prosecute their deportation. She said there is no burden on state agencies to spend their resources for this purpose.

Kaipat said that before Haley offered her observations, the CNMI already initiated a meeting with ICE officials in the Commonwealth to collaborate on their problems with deporting illegal aliens. That meeting will be held in the near future," she added.

She noted that ICE has not even processed the more than 200 cases that the Commonwealth prosecutors turned over to them on the transition date.

"Those cases involved complete prosecutor files. As I understand it, nothing remained to be done but to bring the case," she said.

"The GAO [Government Accountability Office] report told us that ICE had not even brought many of these cases. So why ICE is complaining about the lack of data on the more than 1,300 illegal aliens that we certified to them months ago is puzzling," Kaipat said.

She said she regards the failure to deport any illegal aliens and the consequent buildup of illegal aliens in the Commonwealth as an enormous social problem for the Commonwealth.

She vowed that she and Labor will do their best to help alleviate this problem.

"At the same time, I must spend our very meager funding resources on finding jobs for U.S. citizens. I cannot do ICE's job for it. They are the federal government. They have enormous resources. They need to use those resources to fix this problem," she added.

The Legislature approved the 25-year land lease for MRDC on May 9, 2007.

More information about MRDC is available at www.thepulan.net.

In February this year, MRDC's Lee made a courtesy call on Babauta, who was then newly appointed to his post as DPL secretary. MRDC is promoting the use of eco-friendly energy systems for its casino project.

Only Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is in operation on Tinian.

Besides MRDC, another investor, Bridge Investment Group, is planning to put up a casino on Tinian but construction at the site had been halted due to uncertainties in immigration rule and the general downturn in the economy.

70-HOUR

From Page 1

These employees started reporting for work at 8:30am instead of 7:30am, and still got off work at 4:30pm, with one-hour lunch break.

The one-hour work reduction every day translates to 10-hour cuts per pay period, from 80 to 70. The 10-hour work cut translates to a 12.5-percent reduction in salary per pay period.

The work hour cuts was the main topic of yesterday's Cabinet meeting, presided by acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

But per the Office of Personnel Management memo on May 18, the official effective date of the 10-hour work reduction or 12.5-percent salary reduction per pay period among excepted service employees and gubernatorial appointees in the Executive Branch was on Sunday.

Civil service employees are so far exempt from the work hour cuts, as the Fitial administration is still working on this process.

The Senate rejected a House-passed austerity bill that would have applied

ECONOMY

From Page 1

were reluctant to issue [citations], at least in the comments they made, simply because in the economic situation that we're in, it was difficult for them to issue a \$200 citation. That [amount is] non-negotiable. ... Be it a trash bag that fell off a car or a piece of chewing gum wrapper they threw away, that's \$200," Rabauliman said.

DEQ and the Department of Public Safety trained a lot of litter control officers, and the latest was in 2007, said Rabauliman, who became DEQ director in 2006.

All CNMI litter control apprehending officers on Saipan, Tinian and Rota represent agencies authorized to enforce the Litter Control Act, including DEQ, DPS, Coastal Resources Management, Department of Public Health, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Public Works, and the Offices of the Mayors on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Rabauliman said the division brought up this issue with lawmakers in the previous Legislature, but the issue died in a committee.

the work hour cuts across-the-board in government. As a result, only excepted service or contract employees, as well as gubernatorial appointees, in the Executive Branch are affected by the work hour cuts.

Two of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's appointees to the Civil Service Commission have yet to be confirmed. Once these two are confirmed by the full Senate, the commission will have a quorum to effect reduction in work hours among civil service employees.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations has yet to schedule public hearings on Fitial's appointments of Jose B. Aldan and Jesus Elameto.

The Fitial administration said the reduction in work hours is necessary to curtail expenses. The government's projected revenue has been revised to \$137 million from \$148 million for the rest of Fiscal Year 2010, but expenses continue to be at \$150 million. Budget deficit was at \$17 million in the first six months of 2010 alone.

The work hour cuts will continue in FY 2011, when projected revenue is further down to \$132 million.

In this 17th Legislature, the DEQ director hopes that amending the law to lower the fine would be entertained by lawmakers. He said lowering the fine might actually work.

Rabauliman cited one of the Pacific islands where spitting in public places used to carry a huge fine and the enforcement officers had the same challenges as the CNMI now has. He said this particular island reduced the fine to \$5.

"They didn't think it was unreasonable and a huge burden on their part. At the end of the day, there's hardly anybody spitting," he said.

Despite the challenges of issuing littering fines, DEQ continues to be active in its monthly cleanup brigade. In addition, there are many schools and non-profit organizations volunteering to clean up tourist spots, beaches and other public areas. DEQ also conducts islandwide cleanups, in partnership with private and public agencies.

But just the same, it doesn't make sense that these volunteers clean up the islands while others deliberately and illegally dispose of litter anywhere. Thus, there are still areas that people have turned into illegal dumping grounds, including areas in Koblerville and Kagman.

DPL

From Page 1

requirements to build a \$300 million Matua Bay Resort on Tinian.

"This summer, MRDC will be updating us about their timeline. I am confident that MRDC will continue with their investments. Right now they are working on their revised architectural and engineering design," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said MRDC is unlike Neo Gold Wings Paradise and Flame Sako Resort & Spa, whose total \$1.8 billion investment plan failed after being unable to secure financial commitments from in-

Alien workers group to hold Memorial Day gathering

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A group of aliens workers and those with Immediate Relative status is going to have another assembly, this time to recognize all parents in the CNMI whose children are in active duty in the U.S. Army.

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed said yesterday that their planned recognition will be on Memorial Day, May 31, at the American Memorial Park's amphitheater,

Default judgment vs tour agency for no response to Palms' lawsuit

The Superior Court has entered a default judgment against a tour agency for not responding to a lawsuit filed by the owner of Palms Resort Saipan.

The court's deputy clerk made an entry of default after Se Hoon Corp. and Jang Dong-In, owners of Leader's Tours, failed to answer the lawsuit filed by Micronesia Resort Inc., owner of Palms Resort.

Micronesia Resort sued Se Hoon Corp. and Jang Dong-In for breach of contract for allegedly refusing to pay its debt, now amounting to \$92,544.63.

Micronesia Resort, through counsel Michael Dotts, filed the motion for entry of default.

In his declaration, Dotts stated that Micronesia Resort's complaint and summons were

from 4pm to 7pm. Syed said they will also hold a singing competition for children at the time, featuring patriotic songs.

He underscored the importance of recognizing parents for their sacrifices while their children are in active duty. "We salute them," he said.

Syed noted that there are many children of alien workers who are also in the U.S. Army. Parents—whether alien workers, U.S. citizens, or locals—have the same feelings and sacrifices when it comes to their

served on the defendants on April 6, 2010. The 20-day period to respond ended on April 26, 2010, he said.

The complaint stated that on Sept. 18, 2009, the defendants each issued a promissory note promising to pay Micronesia Resort \$92,544.63 in 12 monthly installments of \$2,000 at 9 percent interest rate, with the first payment to be made on Nov. 2, 2009.

The complaint said the defendants also agreed that on Dec. 1, 2010, they shall pay the remaining balance of the principal plus interest.

The tour agency, the lawsuit said, have defaulted on paying the Nov. 2, 2009, Dec. 1, 2009 and Jan. 1, 2010 payments and have not made any payments since then. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

children in the military.

"They're all working together to protect the country. So they deserve to be recognized," he stressed.

Syed said the singing competition will have two categories—for those aging 6 to 9, and those from 10 to 16.

Syed said they want to show a spirit of dedication to the coun-

try during this Memorial Day. "We want to work together to make our nation great," he said.

Syed urged parents of those serving in the U.S. Army who are residing in the CNMI to contact them for the recognition.

Those interested in joining in the singing contest should register by next Friday, he said.

Syed said he and UHM-NMI

and PILCOWA board chair Ronnie Doca may be contacted at 235-3306 and 285-9255.

As for this Saturday's planned assembly of those who oppose the Department of the Interior's recommendation to grant improved immigration status to long-term alien workers, Syed said they respect peoples' democratic rights.

Syed, however, appealed to the group not to make it into a political issue, but a humani-

tarian one.

He said there are many alien workers who are married to locals or have Immediate Relative status.

Many locals also have housemaids serving them for more than 15 to 20 years—housemaids who are raising the children of these local families.

"In a way we are tied with the local community, so they should consider those concerns carefully," Syed said.

25 summer teacher internship slots available at PSS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-five slots are now open for summer internship at the Public School System and interns will work in elementary schools on three islands.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said yesterday that PSS will provide a pay ranging from \$7.71 to \$9.16 an hour, depending on college credits already earned.

Applicants must have completed at least two years of

college, must be a U.S. citizen or national, must be working toward a bachelor degree, enjoy working with children, and interested in becoming a teacher.

She said the selected interns will work in the summer reading program at any of the Commonwealth's 12 elementary schools. Duties include assisting in elementary school libraries and helping students in a summer reading program designed to mitigate the learning loss that occurs during the long

summer break.

Sablan said these interns will work under the supervision of a master teacher at each school. She hopes the educational opportunity this internship provides will result in these college students completing their education and returning to public schools to serve as classroom teachers.

There are over 600 classroom teachers in public schools at present, serving nearly 11,000 students.

PSS has until July 2011 to

comply with the federal mandate of exclusively employing highly qualified personnel in all public schools. To date, 73 percent of classroom teachers have complied with the requirements. The rest are in the process of doing so.

The deadline for submission of applications for the summer internship is on Friday, May 28, 2010. Sablan said the program's contact person is Tim Thornburgh of the PSS Federal Programs Office. He may be reached at 237-3065.

to work in the CNMI.

During the entire period of her employment, Dela Cruz was assigned to work on a 12-hour daily shift without any day off, Woodruff said.

"Instead of paying plaintiff her lawful wages and overtime compensation, defendant paid plaintiff only a fixed monthly rate of \$700," Woodruff said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Poker cashier sues ex-employer for replacing her

A permanent CNMI resident has sued her former employer for allegedly terminating her as a poker game room cashier and replacing her with an alien worker not authorized to work.

Levy Dela Cruz sued David Ho, owner of Islas Marianas, for breach of contract, breach of covenant of good faith and

fair dealing, and violation of the Minimum Wage and Hour Act.

Dela Cruz, through counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, asked the Superior Court to order Ho to pay her \$7,824 in damages plus \$7,824 in liquidated damages, plus attorney's fees and court costs.

Woodruff stated in the com-

plaint that Dela Cruz worked for Ho as a poker game room cashier beginning June 1, 2007 until April 15, 2008.

Woodruff said that, on April 15, 2008, Dela Cruz was abruptly discharged from her job and replaced with a foreign national worker. The lawyer said the foreign worker was not authorized

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
for
PROGRAM YEAR 2010
and
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
This ad is paid for by HUD Funds.

The government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands expects an allocation of \$880,551 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$647,474 Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$63,386 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2010 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) meet urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires grant recipients to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG-funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financial assistance, site acquisition, or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

In order to plan ahead as to the use(s) of the PY 2010 allocation which is expected within the next few months, the NMHC which administers the CPD program on behalf of the CNMI government, will be conducting hearings to obtain public input on community development and housing needs, and to provide information to the public on the status of the approved ongoing CDBG projects. The public hearings will be held as follows:

1. On Rota, May 26, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the NMHC Office, Songsong Village, Rota;
2. On Tinian, May 27, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office in San Jose Village, Tinian; and,
3. On Saipan, May 28, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan.

Additional inquiries concerning the CDBG program may be directed in writing to the Corporate Director, or Jeannie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP. 96950, or by calling 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION



Denyo Power SP Generator



17'ft. 1990 Calais Boat; ID#0373PU



Engine

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction a in board boat engine, generator and a 17ft boat on Friday, May 28, 2010. The boat and the generator may be inspected at the CDA Office parking lot in Gualo Rai.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **CDA Office Parking Lot on Friday, May 28, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.**
4. Full payment is required before items can be removed from the premises; and buyer is responsible for removing purchased items;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card (MC and Visa) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.

/S/ **MANUEL A. SABLÁN**
Executive Director

Tinian officer, 2 others released from custody

By DENCIO V. MANGLONA
STUDENT INTERN

Tinian Police Officer I Gilbert Macaranas and two other men facing illegal drug charges were released from custody yesterday after a federal judge determined

2 CNMI students get appointments to West Point and Naval Academy

Rota resident Denn Manglona and Saipan resident John Yoon have both been offered appointments to attend a U.S. service academy as members of the incoming Class of 2014. Manglona won appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. Yoon's appointment is to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD. Both were nominated to the academies by U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sa-

that they don't pose a threat to the community.

In a detention hearing held yesterday morning, U.S. District Court designated Judge Robert Naraja released Macaranas, Henry San Nicolas and Carlos Aldan of Tinian but or-

dered them to surrender their passports to the court.

San Nicolas, who works in the Dog Control program under the Tinian Mayor's Office, will be monitored by a third party custodian, his wife. In the trial it was suggested that San Nicolas'

mother might become a custodian as well.

San Nicolas was ordered not to drink alcohol and will be under house arrest from 6pm to 8am.

Bail was proposed at \$25,000, but Joe Camacho, San

Nicolas' lawyer, argued that his client was "not a flight risk" and that bail was too high. He argued that further imprisonment would only continue to prevent San Nicolas from providing for his family.

After the hearing, Camacho

complained about media reports that cited San Nicholas as the son-in-law of Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, saying that fact was not related to the case.

"Let the case [be] determine[d] by its own merits, not because he is the son-in-law of the mayor," Camacho said.

It was not the *Saipan Tribune* that mentioned this fact.

Chamber's June meeting to feature Taiwan envoy

The head of mission of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Director General Vince W. H. Tsai, will be the guest speaker at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting on June 2 at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

The recipients of the 2010 Educational Scholarship Fund awards—some of Saipan's best and brightest high school seniors who are headed to college later this year—will also be introduced at the same meeting.

Tsai has been the head of mission in the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam since August 2008 and represents the interests of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Commonwealth.

"As you know, visitors from Taiwan enjoy easy access to the Commonwealth by virtue of that country's inclusion in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program. Director General Tsai will discuss a number of topics including how we might increase tourism from Taiwan, possible opportunities to increase investment or foster trade with Taiwanese companies, and the need to establish direct flights between Taiwan and the Commonwealth," said Chamber executive director Kyle Calabrese.

Prior to assuming his duties as head of mission in the region, Tsai was the adviser on Middle East Affairs for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, counselor for the Taiwan Representative Office in South Africa, assistant director general for European Affairs for MOFA, a section chief for MOFA, secretary of the Taiwan Representative Office in the UK, and senior staff for North American Affairs.

"Please be sure to join us in welcoming Director General Tsai to our island and take this opportunity to learn about tourism and trade opportunities with Taiwan," said Calabrese.

Because of the full schedule, the meeting will begin 15 minutes earlier than usual: registration and lunch will begin at 11:15am, and the meeting will begin at 11:45am. The meeting is \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for the public. (*Saipan Tribune*)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. Minutes of April 22, 2010 RBOE Meeting

II. Public Comments¹

- III. Executive Session²**
 - 1. Legal Updates
 - 2. Personnel Matters
 - 3. Other matters

IV. Reports

- 1. Chair
- 2. Board Committees
 - i. CIA
 - ii. CIP
 - iii. FPA
 - iv. LIA
 - v. School Reform
 - vi. Special Education & Early Childhood
- 3. Student Representative
- 4. Commissioner of Education
 - i. Financial Status Reports
 - a. Federal
 - b. Local
 - ii. Personnel Matters
 - a. Praxis II Report Update
 - iii. Other matters

V. Unfinished Business

- 1. 2009 Annual Report

VI. New Business

- 1. BOE-PSS Comments to Senate Bill No. 17-15
- 2. BOE-PSS Comments to Senate Bill No. 17-20
- 3. Head Start Program "Overview Findings-April 25, 2010"
- 4. Proposal on Limited Recognition of Praxis Equivalent from Other Jurisdiction
- 5. State Fiscal Stabilization Funds Part II -Revised
- 6. Funds for the Improvement of Education (FIE) U.S. Congressional earmarked fund for PSS
 - a. \$250,000 for the Carolinian and Chamorro Language Programs
 - b. \$100,000 for Libraries
- 7. Job Description for Coordinator of Certification & Licensure
- 8. Ad Hoc on COE Evaluation

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board Meeting

IX. Adjournment

¹Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

the academies. They are both extremely bright, motivated and well-rounded young men whom I believe will make excellent additions to the Military Academy and the Naval Academy. They will represent the Northern Marianas Islands well as students and

eventually as officers in the U.S. Armed Services," said Sablan.

Manglona is an exemplary student, ranking first in his class. He is student council president and a member of the National Honor Society. He has also been a member of the Movie and Theatre clubs and has participated in the National Forensics League and the Junior Statesmen of America program, spending a summer at Georgetown University.

Manglona played for the Rota High School basketball and vol-

leyball teams. He also has some work experience, having served as an engineering intern under the mentorship of telecommunication engineers on Saipan.

Upon graduation from the Military Academy, he will be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He will then serve on active duty for a minimum of five years.

Yoon is also an exceptional student, who is actively involved in various school and community service activities. He is a member of his church and school band, plays for his school's volleyball and track and field teams and is co-captain of the basketball team.

Yoon serves as a member of the student council, the Mock Trial Competition team, Nation-

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-10-032

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply of major overhaul and limited running parts for MITSUI #1 OVERHAUL project at Rota Power Plant CNMI.

Emergency generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC takes down MITSUI #1 for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. MITSUI #1 is seriously overdue for overhaul and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not necessary, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, until June 9, 2010.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked "IFB 10-032 MITSUI#1 OVERHAUL PARTS" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CHST) local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on June 11, 2010 to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com; Mr. Charles Manglona, Deputy Director, CUC Rota via email at charles@cucgov.net.

/s/ DEBORAH FISHER
Legal Counsel

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Local ESGR committee has a new name

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has officially renamed the "ESGR Guam Field Committee" to the "ESGR Guam-CNMI Field Committee," according to Capt. Josephine Blas, public affairs director for the local ESGR Field Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"This is the right and proper thing to do," said retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino, who is the committee's chair. "It is great news! It's what we always wanted and what should have been done a long time ago. This action recognizes the relevance of

the volunteers as well as the service members in the CNMI."

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 600,000 National Guard and Reserve men and women across the United States have left their families and employers to serve on active duty in the global war on terrorism. In Guam and the CNMI, there are more than 2,700 members in the Guard and Reserve, and many are currently deployed away from their loved ones and places of business.

"These deployed Guard and Reserve members serve, work, and live in our community. The outpouring of support from the home front has been over-

whelming. None of this could have been possible without the continued support from employers of the brave men and women who serve this great Nation, and our Islands," said Blas.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through mediation. (PR)

Manta Band sets free AMP concert tomorrow

Saipan Southern High School is inviting the public to a free concert at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater this Wednesday evening, May 26, at 5:30pm. The members of the award-winning Manta Band wish to express their profound thanks to the entire community for their support during the past year with a musical tribute that will include nearly two hours of musical entertainment from the intermediate, advanced, and advanced II (Carnegie Hall ensemble) students.

Support has poured in from nearly every corner of the CNMI community. Businesses, government entities, PSS, and literally

hundreds of other individuals and organizations have contributed to the success of the Manta Band. Over \$140,000 was needed to send the group to NYC last month to compete in the internationally acclaimed New York International Music Festival where the band

claimed the silver award with an outstanding repertoire that will be presented as an encore performance on Wednesday night.

Guest-conducting the band for this special concert alongside SSHS director Will DeWitt will be the famed Japanese conductor, Maestro Atsushi Ozawa. A longtime friend of DeWitt and mentor of the SSHS students,

Ozawa has frequently volunteered his time and talent to elevate the musical potential of the islands' student musicians, even writing about them in a widely-read professional band conductor's publication known as the *Band Journal*.

He is being sponsored and hosted this week by the Palms Resort on Saipan.

"The concert is dedicated to every individual and group who played a role in helping the band. Their success is your success! We look forward to sharing our music with the entire community. Thank you for your support!" said DeWitt. (PR)

Detonation operation in Marpi this Saturday

The Marpi area will be closed off on Saturday, May 28, 2010, from 11am to 2pm, to allow bomb experts to detonate live ordnance at the Laderan Laggan cliff line, about a mile north of the Marpi landfill.

The detonation operation will be jointly conducted by the Department of Public Safety, the Emergency Management Office, and the U.S. Navy Explosive

Ordnance Disposal Detachment Marianas.

The public, especially tour and dive operators, farmers, joggers and bikers, are warned to stay away from the area while the operation is ongoing.

The only area that will not be closed off will be Suicide Cliff, which will be the main viewing point for the detonation.

Public access to Suicide Cliff will be allowed only through the road leading up to the Far East Broadcasting antenna for viewing purposes. DPS will set security posts to enforce and control traffic movement for safety purposes.

For more information, call DPS-PIO Officer Eric David at 664-9022/3, Cell: 483-9032 or EMO at 322-8001/2. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS sets Parent Literacy Night

Marianas High School is having its last and final Parent Literacy Night on Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at the cafeteria from 6pm to 7pm, hosted by the Math Department. There will be lots of activities and snacks will be provided. (PR)

Dandan Elementary School Cultural Day

Dandan Elementary School will be hosting a Cultural Day fundraising event on Saturday, June 12, 2010, from 8:30am to 3pm at the school's multi-purpose stage. The theme of the event is "Cultural Day Celebrates the Island Way!" There will be lots of food, prizes, games and entertainment! For more information, call 237-3662. (PR)

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

JOHN GONZALES LIVE airs Wednesday and is replayed Sunday and Monday on KSPN Channel 2.

■ May 26, live 7pm-8 pm; replay 7pm-8 pm

- May 30 & May 31

Topic: PSS Continuing Public Education Series

Guests:

1. Joaquina DLG. Salas, principal, San Vicente Elementary School

2. Martha Kintol, principal, Dandan Elementary School

■ May 26, live 8-9pm; replay 8-30-930 pm -

May 30 & May 31

Topic: The Dangers and Effects of Secondhand Smoke and Tobacco

Guests:

1. Dr. Richard Brostrom, Medical director, CNMI Division of Public Health & Tobacco

Cessation Program

2. George Cruz, chairman, Commonwealth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

3. Patricia P. Coleman, coordinator, Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program

Call 287-4230, Text 285.META (6382), or Email johngonzales@pticom.com for your question or comment. (PR)

Final MMAC team captains' meeting

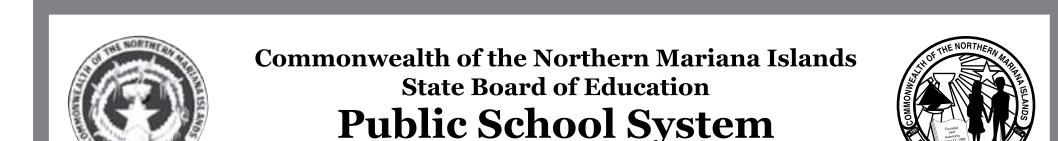
The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer committee is inviting all 2010 MMAC team captains or their representative for a final meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 26, at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency's Chamolinian Room. Important information will be discussed. For more information contact Reina Camacho at 285-7677 or via email at reinacamacho@gmail.com.

The 2010 MMAC winners for most money raised in their category are as follows:

- Family: Bodig, \$13,516.70
- School: Grace Christian Academy, \$2,602.78
- Corporation: Pacific Islands Club, \$12,186.00
- Government/NGO: Transportation Security Administration - \$7,717.37

Other awards presented at the 2010 MMAC include:

- Best Baton: IT&E/Saipan Southern High School
- Most Spirit: Bodig
- Best Tent: Bodig
- Most Laps: Marianas Variety/Marianas High School
- Most Luminaries Sold: Bodig (1,153). (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-046

"GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT TANAPAG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the General Repair Works at Tanapag Elementary School on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 11, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$61.95.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

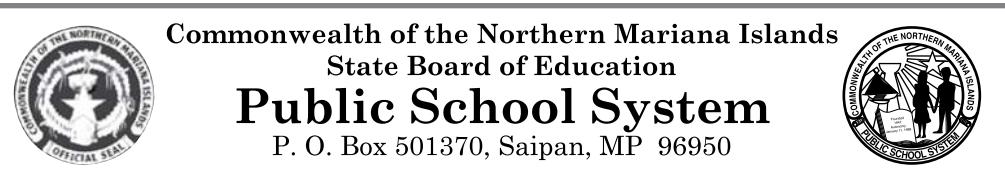
There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 28, 2010, at 3:30 p.m., local time, at the Tanapag Elementary School Library in Tanapag, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-046, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:30 a.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation for bid PSS-IFB-10-051

"FIVE(5) PARATRANSIT VANS FOR PSS SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of Five (5) Paratransit Vans for PSS Special Education Program. The Scope of Work is available beginning May 11, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950.

Questions shall be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@cnmipss.org

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 10-051" containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 2, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.**, at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This purchase is funded by a Grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Tracy Guerrero is 2010 Henry Toll Fellow

Lexington, KY—Tracy M. Guerrero, Director of Courts for the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary, is one of 40 emerging state leaders from across the nation selected for the prestigious Toll Fellowship Program sponsored by The Council of State Governments, Aug. 20-25, 2010.

The annual weeklong seminar, named in honor of Henry Toll, a Colorado senator who founded CSG in 1933, seeks to develop the next generation of leaders from all three branches of state government. This year's dynamic program, held in Lexington, Ky., focuses on trends analysis, media and constituent relations, policy development and leadership and institutional changes. The experience gives emerging leaders perspectives they would not ordinarily obtain during the course of their regular governmental service.



Guerrero

Guerrero was nominated by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, with endorsements from Elizabeth Salas Balajadia, the NMI's only Toll Fellow alumni to date, and former senator J. George Bamba of Guam, also a Toll Fellow alumni. Guerrero was also highly recommended

by Gov. Felix P. Camacho of Guam. Guerrero was selected from many outstanding applicants by a committee of state elected and appointed officials as one of the most promising leaders of state government. This year's applicant pool included state leaders from all three branches and represented 36 states and three U.S. territories. Past Toll Fellowship graduates include governors, U.S. senators and members of Congress, as well as leaders in state government.

Guerrero has served as Director of Courts for the NMI Judiciary since August 2008. From 2002 to 2008, she worked as a senior analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office in San Francisco, California. Guerrero holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a master's degree in Business

Administration from California State University East Bay. She is the daughter of Roberta K. Guerrero and Juan T. Guerrero.

The Council of State Governments is the premier multi-branch organization forecasting policy trends for the community of states, commonwealths and territories on a national and regional basis. CSG alerts state elected and appointed officials to emerging social, economic, and political trends; offers innovative state policy responses to rapidly changing conditions; and advocates multistate problem-solving to maximize resources and competitiveness. CSG promotes excellence in decision-making and leadership skills and champions state sovereignty.

For more information about the Henry Toll Fellowship Program, contact Krista Rinehart at (859) 244-8249. (PR)

Jennifer Dockter is new High Court Clerk

Jennifer Dockter assumed the position of clerk of court for the Supreme Court beginning yesterday. She replaces Daniel Stafford who left the judiciary to assume a position locally in the private sector.

In her role as the clerk of court, Dockter will also serve as the staff attorney for the judicial branch, which will require her to review all personnel and third-party vendor contracts and

to represent the judicial branch in various other matters. The office of the clerk is also the depository for all new documents filed with the Supreme Court.

Dockter is a member of the bar associations of the CNMI and the State of California and came to the CNMI in 2008 as a law clerk for Judge David Wiseman and later served as a prosecutor with the Office of the Attorney General. She has a bachelor's degree in international business from Boise State University, where she graduated cum laude, and a law degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California, where she graduated third in a class of 177 people.

In welcoming Dockter to her new position, Director of Courts Tracy Guerrero said that Dock-



Dockter

ter has her confidence that the "Supreme Court will be well served by a person of her professionalism and dedication to the judicial process." (PR)

Can you identify?

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.



Last week's photo, from left, was identified as follows: High Commissioner Goding, Carlos Calvo, Melchor Mendiola Sr., and Prudencio Manglona. Photo taken in 1957 when the Rota Municipal Charter was signed. Photo identified by Remedio Cangco, Paul Manglona, Angie M. Villagomez, and Laura Manglona.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the ARFF Classroom at the Pacific Region ARFF Training Center, Saipan International Airport, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (April 9, 2010)

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS

1. Hanson Cement
2. Cancellation of SIA ARFF Training Facility A/E Services
3. SIA ARFF Training Facility Site Evaluation Services Amendment No. 1
4. SIA Taxiway Conversion – Change Order No. 12
5. SIA Runway Rehabilitation Change Order No. 1
6. Rota Runway Change Order No. 3
7. Rota Runway CM Amendment No. 2
8. SIA Public Address System Change Order No. 2
9. SIA Generator Deductive Change Order No. 3
10. A/E Consulting Services Renewal and Amendment (SSFM)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

May 24, 2010

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 25, 1999

CPA weighs takeover of Outer Cove Marina

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board has directed its legal counsel and financial consultant to study the offer of Marine Revitalization Corp. to takeover the operations of the controversial Outer Cove Marina. This will allow the management and board members to make a decision on whether or not the project would help the ports authority in generating the much-needed revenue. Some \$4 million was spent by the MRC in establishing the marina which has become the subject of a dispute among boat owners who have criticized the safety issue.

PSS, NMC seek Title II grants

The Public School System and the Northern Marianas College are jointly seeking over \$2 million in federal grants to implement a program that will engage a teacher-in-training right from the first day in college until employment. In pushing for the joint move, PSS intends to upgrade the content knowledge and teaching skills of its incoming teachers, while NMC would like to bring able recruits to PSS, according to a proposal prepared by Chas J. Algaier, B.A. coordinator for the School of Education. The funding that will be accessed under the Title II Federal Grant will be used for course development and revision at the Language Arts and Sciences of NMC.

May 25, 2000

Tatachug project will proceed

A notice to proceed has been issued for the construction of the JROTC and Vocational education buildings at Tatachug in Rota despite strong opposition from the Board of Education to establish the educational facilities. Public Works Secretary Juan B. Cepeda has already informed Pacific Cooperation Limited, the contractor for the proposed projects, that the contract performance has been set for 227 calendar days starting May 8, 2000. February 2, 2001 is the target completion date for the facilities. BOE Committee on Capital Improvement Projects Chair Anthony Pellegrino was surprised at the decision to carry out construction despite failure between BOE and the Rota Mayor's Office to reach an "understanding."

EPA completes water sampling

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed collecting a total of 220 samples of groundwater from each private water well on the island for volatile organic chemicals (VOC) analysis, according to Division of Environmental Quality Director Ignacio Cabrera. Samples have been sent to California-based Montgomery Watson, a certified drinking water laboratory in the United States. The VOC sampling performed by U.S. EPA will save water systems \$160 per sample, the cost of the VOC analysis. This developed as DEQ also took water samples from the wells of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and in a private farm located near the Suicide Cliff for laboratory analysis to find out whether Agent Orange was used on the island.

May 25, 2001

NMI braces for change in US Senate structure

Northern Marianas lawmakers are concerned over possible passage of anti-CNMI legislation, following a shift in the political make-up of the US Senate with Democrats outnumbering GOP legislators. Washington Representative John Babauta said efforts by the Northern Marianas to stave off passage of increased minimum wage and takeover legislation will become more of an uphill battle since Republicans will lose control over the committee chairmanships in the US Senate. He said the CNMI should be concerned since the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will be taken away from the leadership of Republican Senator Frank Murkowski.

Scientists ask US to act on recovery of sea turtles

The 15 member Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council is urging the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries to step up implementation of existing recovery plans for marine turtles. "Recovery plans have been developed for several species of Pacific marine turtles that stipulate and prioritize actions to be taken to assist marine turtles to recover," notes the SSC. "To our knowledge no participation plans have been developed and few priority 1 items described in the recovery plans have been implemented, despite continued decline of Pacific turtle populations." Presentations by NMFS demonstrated that, to recover marine turtle populations, it is essential to protect females and eggs on and around nesting beaches, as well as reduce unintended capture by fishing vessels.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-047

“GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT OLEAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL”

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at Oleai Elementary School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 11, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$62.05.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, “BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS”. Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, “Competitive Sealed Bidding”.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 28, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Oleai Elementary School Library in Oleai, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-047, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 11:00 a.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with “Buy America” Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-048

“GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT GARAPAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL”

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at Garapan Elementary School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 11, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$61.25.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, “BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS”. Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, “Competitive Sealed Bidding”.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 28, 2010, at 1:00 p.m., local time, at the Garapan Elementary School Library in Garapan, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-048, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with “Buy America” Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-049

“GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL”

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at Kagman Elementary School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 11, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$47.50.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, “BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS”. Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, “Competitive Sealed Bidding”.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 27, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Kagman Elementary School Library in Kagman, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-049, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 1:30 p.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with “Buy America” Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-050

“GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT CHACHA JR. HIGH SCHOOL”

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at Chacha Jr. High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 11, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$66.75.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, “BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS”. Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, “Competitive Sealed Bidding”.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 27, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., local time, at the Chacha Jr. High School Library in Kagman, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-050, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with “Buy America” Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

North Korea: No good answers

When one country fires on and sinks another country's naval vessel, it's usually regarded as an act of war. But when the attack is carried out by North Korea against South Korea, two nations bristling with weapons pointed at each other that must not be fired lest they spark a cataclysmic global conflict, the only practical response is to take extreme umbrage.

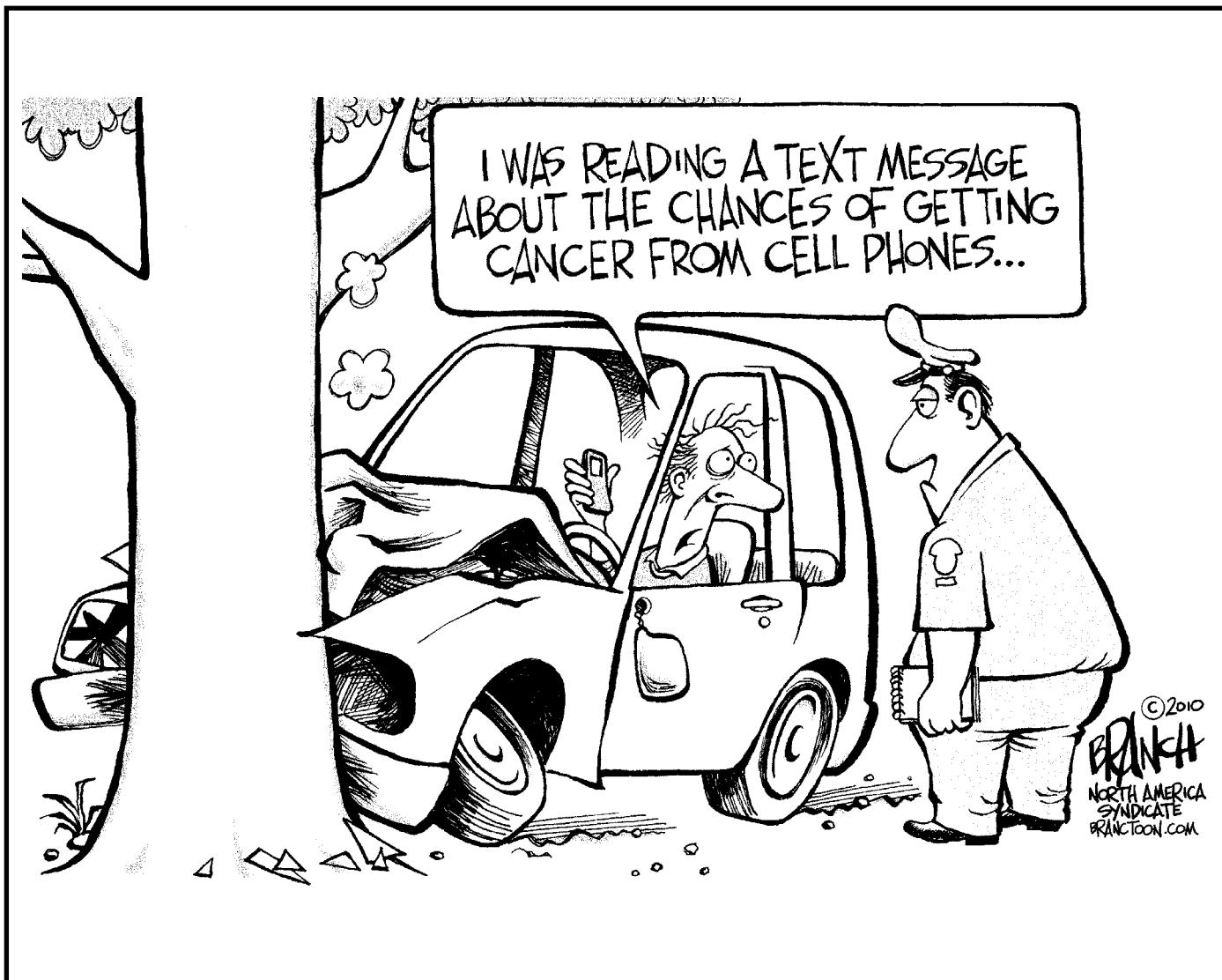
That's what Seoul did Thursday when investigators formally charged Pyongyang with the March sinking of the Cheonan, a patrol vessel that went down March 26 in the Yellow Sea, killing 46 crew members. A multinational team of experts turned up overwhelming evidence, including torpedo parts that clearly came from a North Korean model. In response, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak has been trying to drum up support for tighter United Nations sanctions and is expected to sever trade and aid ties with the North.

The conundrum for Lee is that he can't respond militarily because absolutely no one wants to resume the Korean War. Meanwhile, attempts over half a century to change the behavior of North Korea's regime, involving every diplomatic carrot and stick that could be devised, have been fruitless. So what do you do when shooting back is unthinkable and diplomacy is ineffective? You call for tighter U.N. sanctions—a fairly empty gesture because China, a veto-wielding member of the Security Council, is wary of approving tough penalties lest they destabilize the North's government and create a refugee problem for Beijing.

The Obama administration, distracted by its attempts to rein in Iran's nuclear ambitions, seems to have largely given up on Pyongyang's. The administration's North Korea policy is mainly geared toward maintaining the status quo. By waiting out dictator Kim Jong Il, who is thought to have health problems, Obama may be hoping that his successor will be easier to deal with. Yet ignoring Kim is no more effective than plying him with carrots and sticks; there's reason to believe the Cheonan sinking was an effort by Kim to attract attention in hopes of winning economic concessions. In the past, provocative behavior by the North has produced precisely such benefits.

With no good answers, there is at least a bad one: Giving Kim what he wants. For now, the toughest possible approach is warranted, including measures to strengthen the South's defenses against Kim's arsenal of submarines, missiles and unconventional weapons. Although it's important to continue delivering food aid to the North's starving people, the Obama administration should also consider returning North Korea to the list of state sponsors of terrorism, from which it was removed in 2008 in an effort to spur nuclear concessions. The six-party talks on Pyongyang's nuclear program should eventually be restarted—but not now.

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In the best interest of business

So much has been said on both sides of the fence about the Department of the Interior's recommendations to grant improved immigration status for long-term alien workers in the CNMI that people seem to have forgotten the fact that improved immigration status for ALL workers is inevitable and well on its way.

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act that federalized the CNMI's immigration system has set the law's full implementation by 2014. By then, the CNMI's alien labor will be zeroed out, which means workers will either be sent home en masse or their status will be converted to any of the several statuses provided under the Immigration and Naturalization Act, most likely the H visa system. Or if the Department of Homeland Security finally gets its act together, then the Commonwealth-only CW visa system. An en masse exodus of alien workers from the Commonwealth is not exactly a feasible idea at this time, both economically or logically, so although some workers might be sent home, it is far more likely that most alien workers will be staying, with their immigration statuses converted to an H1, H2, or CW category. And those categories, particularly H, already provide pathways to U.S. citizenship.

So why bother with the Department of the Interior's recommendation to grant status to alien workers now if, after 2014, they will be set on that pathway anyway? Why not just wait for 2014 and let the inexorable process go underway? Well, besides the fact that most long-term alien workers in the CNMI have already met the residency requirement many times over, it is the fact that private businesses in the CNMI will bear the onus when it comes to converting the status of their foreign workers come 2014.

Both the H and CW visa systems would require private companies to apply for the visas of their alien workers, which means paying hefty fees of up to \$5,000 for each worker. For a mid-sized company that has, say, at least 10 alien workers, you're already looking at spending up to \$50,000 just to be able to retain your valuable workforce. That's quite a sizeable amount, even for big companies, particularly in an economic environment that's as toxic as the CNMI's is right now. If Congress were to act on Interior's recommendation and pass a bill to grant improved immigration status for the CNMI's alien workforce before the 2014 cutoff, it would remove this onerous burden from the shoulders of the Commonwealth's private sector and retain on the islands the capital outlay that would otherwise have flown out of Commonwealth coffers.

This is not intended to sway businesses into supporting Interior's report but it would appear that it would be to the best interest of businesses if Congress takes this responsibility out of their hands.

■■■

What's with the supposed renovation of the Koblerville basket-

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

The views expressed are strictly that of the author. Vallejera is the editor of the Saipan Tribune.



ball court? That was an \$18,000 contract awarded to KS Corporation to get the court up to standard, repair or replace the fence, repair and repaint the court's floor, and put up lights. After a few weeks' work, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and a couple of Cabinet members joined up with some residents to officially unveil the new and improved basketball court.

Well and good but have you seen the basketball court? I have and "new and improved" are hardly the words I would use. Barely a month after the unveiling, the basketball nets are now ragged and the paint job on the fence is starting to show rust. Instead of using the metal nets usually found in outdoor courts, the contractor used nylon that frays after just days in the sun. The court's floor remains pockmarked with holes and the bleachers look like you'd get tetanus just by looking at it.

That's not the worst part, though. You should check out the fence. Instead of replacing or repairing the chain link fence by welding them to the top and the bottom of the iron rebar and stretching the fence so it doesn't bow or sag, the contractor merely looped thin wires to attach the fence's top and the bottom to the rebar, leaving razor sharp wire points sticking out for a stray foot or hand to gash with. At the same time, the chain link fence is attached to the outside of the rebars, which would make for a nasty bruise if you're unlucky enough to get pushed to the fence during a scrimmage.

This is frankly the sloppiest repair job I've ever seen, not only because it is so below acceptable standards but also because the gaps at the bottom of the rebar are such that small children could accidentally stick their foot in them and get a nasty cut. As one of my reporters described it, the whole project looks like an \$18,000 paint job.

The state of the Koblerville basketball court was first brought to our attention by resident Daniel Durkin. For those who know Dan, you'd know that he could be abrasive, loud, and sometimes annoying for his persistence on this issue—but the guy has a point. The \$18,000 the government coughed up for this project doesn't show. It looks like the slapdash work by some fly-by-night operator, with

See IN THE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Questions from readers

Today we will discuss, once again, a couple of questions recently asked by readers, which we think are of general interest. As always, please feel free to send us your questions and concerns by email at lexmarianas@pticom.com. We will answer privately, as promptly as we can. If we also select your question to put in this column, we will of course not use your name or any identifying information.

The first question involves an all-too-common problem faced by U.S. permanent residents with marital problems. The second is an employer's inquiry about his responsibilities to a seriously ill foreign worker.

Q: I am married to a U.S. citizen and have a green card. My husband has a new girlfriend and wants to divorce me. How will a divorce affect my green card? Can I still become a U.S. citizen?

A: You don't say how long you have been married, or how long you have had your green card. Let's start with the difference between a "conditional" lawful permanent resident (LPR) and a "permanent" LPR.

If you were married at least two years on the day you became an LPR, then your permanent residence is indeed permanent, so long as you follow the rules for maintaining LPR status. Divorce will not affect your permanent residence, and you cannot be "sent back" because you are no longer married to a U.S. citizen (USC). Because the CNMI has been "inside" the U.S. for immigration purposes since Nov. 28, 2009, you are also "inside," whether or not you remain married. You can stay right where you are—or move to any other part of the U.S. if you prefer—and accumulate time until you can apply to become a USC yourself, if that is what you want to do.

If you were married less than two years when you became an LPR, then your permanent resident status was granted on a two-year "conditional" basis, and you and your husband were required to file a Form I-751 (Petition to Remove the Conditions of Residence) during the last three months of those two years. The I-751, with supporting documentation, requires you to once again prove what you proved when you got your green card in the first place: that you entered into the marriage in good faith. If you went through this process and your I-751 was approved, then you are a "permanent" LPR and the answer is the same as if you were married two years before becoming an LPR.

These same rules apply if your conditional LPR status is based on marriage to another LPR, rather than a USC.

But the I-751 is a joint petition, to be filed by husband and wife together. What if you are still a conditional LPR and you have to file an I-751 but for some reason your USC or LPR spouse will not agree—in the case above, because the husband wants a divorce, or you will be divorced by the time you need to file the joint petition? Or if for some other reason you cannot file a joint petition, such as your spouse's death? Then you will have to file the I-751 alone, and request a waiver on one of the following grounds:

- The USC spouse is deceased; or
- You entered the marriage in good faith, but you were divorced or the marriage was annulled; or
- You entered the marriage in good faith, but your USC or LPR spouse (or, in the case of a child with derivative conditional permanent residence) or parent battered you or subjected you to extreme cruelty; or
- You are a conditional resident child who was battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by your USC or *conditional* resident parent(s); or
- Termination of your LPR status, and your removal (deportation) from the U.S. will result in an extreme hardship.

In each case you will have to document your claim to a waiver.

For a conditional LPR spouse filing for a waiver with regard to a living USC or LPR spouse, note that the key is showing that you entered into the marriage in good faith. We discussed "good faith marriage" with regard to couples who are separated but still on good enough terms for the USC spouse to apply for a green card for the non-USC spouse, in our April 13 column ("Married But Apart—the Viable Marriage Myth"). The same general rule, stated in the 1975 *Bark v. INS* case, applies to the issues here: "Aliens cannot be required to have . . . more successful marriages than citizens."

■■■

Q: I employ a foreign national worker, with a two year contract and an umbrella permit. The employee has been seriously ill for some months now and has returned to his home country for medical treatment. I have paid his medical costs so far, but these costs are significant and mounting, and my business is having trouble absorbing them. It is uncertain when, and even if, my employee will be able to return to work. Are there any limits on my liabilities to this worker?

A: Under CNMI law, the employer is liable for the medical costs of the employee until the end of the contract and for 96 days thereafter. The 96 day liability stops when the employee transfers to another employer or if he repatriates to his home country. The only way for you to limit your liability as an employer is by coming to an agreement with your employee.

This type of agreement can take many different forms but it will usually have the following elements: (1) the worker agrees to voluntarily terminate the employment and the employer agrees to release the worker; (2) the employer agrees to pay for any medical bills outstanding on the date of the agreement; (3) the parties agree on how future medical bills will be paid (this can be a waiver by the employee or a shared payment plan or a specific dollar amount beyond which the employer has no further responsibility); (4) if the employer does not agree to any future responsibility for medical costs, there is usually a lump sum severance payment to the employee; (5) a promise by the employer to rehire the worker if he recovers and is fit to work again; (6) an agreement by the worker to a full and final release of the employer, meaning that the worker agrees not to sue the employer under a long list of federal and local laws.

This type of agreement requires a cost-benefit analysis by both sides. The employer really has only three legal options: (1) terminate the worker for cause, which must be approved by the Department of Labor, which is unlikely under these circumstances; (2) continue to pay for medical costs through the end of the contract plus 96 days; or (3) come to an agreement with the worker. (The last, illegal—and, in our opinion, immoral—option is for the employer to simply abandon the employee and take his chances on being sued.) The employer will need to estimate what his potential exposure is if he pays for medical expenses through the end of the contract. If the worker is close to the end of his contract, option No. 2 might be more advantageous; if the contract has six months or more to go, option No. 3 may seem more attractive. Option No. 1 will only be invoked if neither of the other two options is viable. If Option 1, termination for cause, is invoked, the employer needs to factor in litigation costs, because either the employee or the Department of Labor, or both, are likely to challenge it through the administrative process of DOL and/or through the courts.

On the employee's side, the calculation involves the severity of the medical condition, the length of the remaining contract term, and the employee's ability to pay for ongoing care. If the condition is very serious, and the employee is not likely to survive for long, he may prefer a lump sum payment for the sake of his survivors. If he is likely to recover and needs continued medical care, he is unlikely

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and **BRUCE MAILMAN**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

to agree to a lump sum payment because he knows the employer is bound by law to continue to pay. However, if the contract only has a short time remaining, the lump sum might be more attractive. If the contract has more than six months to go, continued medical care might be more attractive. If the employee thinks the employer might abandon him in the future, he may opt for the lump sum now. The alternative of suing the employer to pay medical bills, especially from a foreign country, will prove an almost insurmountable obstacle for many employees.

So the bottom line is that the employer has definite legally enforceable responsibilities for the medical costs incurred by a foreign employee. If the employer wishes to limit those costs, he must offer a package to the worker that is sufficiently attractive so that the worker will forego the contract and the medical benefits that go with it. There are many individual variables in each case that will influence the calculation of both employer and employee in dealing with this issue. One size definitely does not fit all.

*The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the *Saipan Tribune* at editor@saipantribune.com.*

Letters to the Editor

Price to pay

This is to add one fact to Mr. Glenn H. Manglona's letter to the editor of May 21, 2010. Let's not forget that the U.S. put all the islands in the Mariana archipelago at risk when it armed two of the atomic bombs that were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan just before the end of World War II. No one on these islands were notified or alerted about this, but it was a point in U.S. historical moments that brought an end to WWII. If these atomic bombs had exploded on Tinian, imagine what the islands would be today. This was a price to pay, and the U.S. should be grateful that these islands were available and its people would not have voiced any objection to what planned destruction these events had in world affairs. But the fact is the U.S. government must be reminded that it was these islands that made the U.S. the global superpower status that it enjoys today.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Thank you MVA

Having criticized the MVA for its overly-loud public address system settings for the Taste of the Marianas goings-on, it would seem only fair to say thank you for the lower volume settings this past Saturday. It was so nice to be able to conduct coherent conversations without straining either eardrums or vocal chords! (I was not present on May 15, so don't know whether the volume was turned down then as well or not)

Thank you for heeding, MVA!

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Editor's Note: MVA also paid heed to Ruth Tighe's suggestion to put the performers on stage instead of on the ground. It made for better viewing and less dust flying in the air.

IN THE

From Page 10

probably just a single coating of paint on the basketball court's floor, nylon ropes for the netting, a chain-link fence that bows and sags in some places, and a lawsuit just waiting to happen with the jagged points of wire at the fence's bottom.

The fact of the matter is that there are rules for these kinds of things. The government should have checked first the final quality of the project before paying the contractor and he should be held to certain standards and expectations before cutting his check. By the look of things, there was massive breakdown in this process and it is up to the government to take the contractor to task for this. This was, by the way, a CIP project, so Vicky Villagomez at the Office of the Governor should take the lead in ensuring that the government get it's \$18,000 worth of work on this project. Doing otherwise will be just one more reason for people to think it's not what you know but who you know that matters around here and we don't want that to happen, right?



Razor sharp wire points stick out of the Koblerville basketball court fence for a stray foot or hand to gash with.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 80
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 57
Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 81 ▼ 69
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 46
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 92 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 75
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 64
Osaka	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 60
Paris	Rain	▲ 64 ▼ 50
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 55
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 56
Salem	Rain	▲ 61 ▼ 51
San Francisco	Rain	▲ 54 ▼ 53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 52
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 64
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 66

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:41 AM	Today	High Tide: 2.0 Feet
11:57 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet
6:41 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
11:55 PM	Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:46 AM	6:42 PM	Today	4:09 PM	3:08 AM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM	Wednesday	5:07 PM	3:54 AM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM	Thursday	6:06 PM	4:43 AM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM	Friday	7:04 PM	5:35 AM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM	Saturday	7:59 PM	6:30 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE 12 TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2010

Business

US has uphill struggle in key talks with China

BEIJING (AP)—The U.S. hasn't swayed China yet on the need to punish North Korea and Iran heading into high-level talks between American and Chinese officials on greater security and economic cooperation, a senior Obama administration official said Sunday.

With the two-day meetings beginning Monday, the two powers haven't settled on how to deal with North Korea, blamed for the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship, the official said.

While an international report has found the North responsible, China isn't convinced, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the conversation at a private dinner hosted by State Councilor Dai Bingguo for U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

A second stalemate involves specifics about new U.N. penalties against Iran over its disputed nuclear program.

It's evident the U.S. faces a struggle in securing China's cooperation on both issues, ex-

pected to be the subject of intense consultations during the Beijing sessions. Clinton and U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner are leading their delegation.

At the dinner, the official said, the American side made clear how serious the U.S. and its allies South Korea and Japan take the sinking of the Cheonan on March 26, killing 46 sailors in the South's worst military disaster since a truce ended the Korean War in 1953.

An international team of civilian and military investigators said in a report Thursday that a North Korean submarine fired a homing torpedo at the ship, ripping it in two. North Korea has denied any role.

The Americans also told the Chinese that it was important to work closely on the matter, which the U.S. and South Korea contend amounts to a breach of the Korean armistice. South Korea was expected to announce on Monday that it will take the issue to the U.N. Security Council.

The official would not dis-



AP
U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, speaks with Chinese President Hu Jintao after he spoke during the opening session of the second round of the China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Monday May 24, 2010.

cuss the steps that South Korea would announce, but said there

had been close consultation between Washington and Seoul

and that the U.S. would support the South's position. China is

not ready to take that step, still seeking proof of North Korean involvement.

China, North Korea's primary ally and benefactor, holds a permanent, veto-wielding seat on the Security Council, making its backing for any penalties essential. Beijing has called the sinking "unfortunate" but has said little else publicly.

North Korea on Sunday threatened to "crush" South Korea and said the report was an "enormous fabrication" only designed to justify the South's attempt to invade the North in collaboration with the U.S.

On Iran, the U.S. official said China had agreed in principle to a new draft resolution of U.N. penalties over Tehran's refusal to prove that its nuclear program is peaceful. Substantial work with Beijing on the specifics is ahead.

Details such as the names of Iranian companies and individuals subject to penalties are to appear in an as-yet unfinished part of the draft, the result of months of painstaking negotiations.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fiscal crises threaten Europe's generous benefits

LONDON (AP)—Six weeks of vacation a year. Retirement at 60. Thousands of euros for having a baby. A good university education for less than the cost of a laptop. The system known as the European welfare state was built after World War II as the keystone of a shared prosperity meant to prevent future conflict. Generous lifelong benefits have since become a defining feature of modern Europe. Now the welfare state—cherished by many Europeans as an alternative to what they see as dog-eat-dog American capitalism—is coming under its most serious threat in decades: Europe's sovereign debt crisis. Deep budget cuts are under way across Europe. Although the first round is focused mostly on government payrolls—the least politically explosive target—welfare benefits are looking increasingly vulnerable. "The current welfare state is unaffordable," said Uri Dadush, director of the Carnegie Endowment's International Economics Program. "The crisis has made the day of reckoning closer by several years in virtually all the industrial countries."

Asian stock markets follow Wall Street advance

SINGAPORE (AP)—Asian stocks markets were mostly higher Monday, led by China, as regional investors took heart from a late rally on Wall Street. China's Shanghai Composite index rose 3.1 percent to 2,664.65, South Korea's Kospi added 0.6 percent to 1,610.44 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.6 percent to 19,657.88. Stock markets in Australia, India, Singapore and Indonesia all gained more than 1 percent. Chinese President Hu Jintao on Monday promised more reforms of his country's fixed yuan exchange rate but gave no timetable. Hu spoke amid a two-day meeting with U.S. officials including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner.

Oil near \$71 as stocks bolster confidence

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose to near \$71 a barrel Monday in Asia as recovering stock markets bolstered the confidence of crude traders. Benchmark crude for July delivery was up 69 cents to \$70.73 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 76 cents to settle at \$70.04 on Friday. Higher stock prices in most Asian markets Monday helped buoy oil since traders look to equities as a barometer of global investor confidence. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 1.3 percent Friday. Crude has fallen about 20 percent this month as investor concern about Europe's debt crisis hammered global stocks and the euro. Oil is up from as low as \$64.24 a barrel last week as the euro steadied.

Continental to operate 77 more Narita-Guam flights

Continental Airlines

HAGATNA, Guam—Continental will operate 77 extra section Narita-Guam roundtrip flights during this year's peak summer travel season.

The extra flights will be operated on a daily basis between July 16 and Sept. 30. In combination with the recently announced 72 roundtrip Haneda-Guam charter flights for this summer's peak travel season, a total of 149 additional flights will be added to Continental's regular scheduled flights linking Tokyo (Haneda & Narita) and Guam for this summer.

Continental made a decision to operate these additional flights to meet increased demands for summer travel to the popular overseas destination of Guam.

These additional Narita



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Continental's 77 extra Narita-Guam roundtrip flights will be operated on a daily basis between July 16 and Sept. 30. flights will be operated using Continental Micronesia's Boeing 737-800 series aircraft.

"I am very happy that Continental will soon be offering a total of 149 additional flights linking Narita and Haneda with Guam during this year's peak summer travel season," said Matt Miller, Continental Air-

lines managing director for the Asia-Pacific region.

"This will enable us to provide our customers with more convenient and flexible schedules for travel between Tokyo and Guam."

Continental Airlines currently operates nearly 60 weekly flights between nine Japanese cities

(Sapporo, Sendai, Niigata, Tokyo (Narita), Osaka, Okayama, Hiroshima, and Fukuoka), and Guam, one of the company's four major strategic hub airports worldwide. Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline.

For more company information, go to www.continental.com. (Continental)

New financial rules might not prevent next crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—The most sweeping changes to financial rules since the Great Depression might not prevent another crisis.

Experts say the financial regulatory bill approved by the Senate last week, and a similar bill that passed the House, include loopholes and gaps that weaken their impact. Many provisions depend on the effectiveness of regulatory agencies—the same agencies that failed to foresee the last crisis.

A big reason for the bill's limitations is that banks and industry groups lobbied against rules they felt would reduce

their profit-making ability.

The financial sector's influence in Washington reflects its enormous donations and lobbying. Over the past two decades, it's given \$2.3 billion to federal candidates. It's outdone every other industry in lobbying since 1998, having spent \$3.8 billion.

Here's how the bills, which must be reconciled and approved by the full Congress, might address some causes of the financial crisis, and some of the bill's perceived weaknesses:

■ Derivatives:

The problem:

Banks used these invest-

ments to make speculative bets that helped inflate the housing market. Once home values crashed, these derivatives—and related side bets—magnified the financial crisis.

The value of a derivative depends on the price of an underlying investment. Examples include corn futures, stock options and mortgages.

The solution: The legislation would, among other things, require that many derivatives be traded on exchanges, as stocks are, so they are visible to regulators.

Why it might not work:

Business groups led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable lobbied successfully to dilute the rules. They argued that exchange-trading would make it too costly for companies other than banks to use derivatives.

The bill exempts companies that use derivatives to reduce the risk of fluctuations in interest rates and commodity prices. Experts say this exception could be exploited. Companies could, for example, find ways to combine traditional business activities with purely financial investment through the use of derivatives.

Nation

Oil soaks coastal marshes, birds as spill grows

BARATARIA BAY, La. (AP)—As officials approached to survey the damage the Gulf oil spill caused in coastal marshes, some brown pelicans couldn't fly away Sunday. All they could do was hobble.

Several pelicans were coated in oil on Barataria Bay off Louisiana, their usually brown and white feathers now jet black. Pelican eggs were glazed with

rust-colored gunk, and new hatchlings and nests were also coated with crude.

It is unclear if the area can even be cleaned, or if the birds can be saved. It is also unknown how much of the Gulf Coast will end up looking the same way because of a well that has spewed untold millions of gallons of oil since an offshore rig exploded more than a month ago.

"As we talk, a total of more than 65 miles of our shoreline now has been oiled," said Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who announced new efforts to keep the spill from spreading.

A mile-long tube operating for about a week has siphoned off more than half a million gallons in the past week, but it began sucking up oil at a slower rate over the weekend. Even at its best

the effort did not capture all the oil leaking, and the next attempt to stanch the flow won't be put into action until at least Tuesday.

With oil pushing at least 12 miles into Louisiana's marshes and two major pelican rookeries now coated in crude, Jindal said the state has begun work on a chain of berms, reinforced with containment booms, that would skirt the state's coastline.

Jindal, who visited one of the affected nesting grounds Sun-

day, said the berms would close the door on oil still pouring from a mile-deep gusher about 50 miles out in the Gulf. The berms would be made with sandbags and sand hauled in; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also is considering a broader plan that would use dredging to build sand berms across more of the barrier islands.

At least 6 million gallons of crude have spewed into the Gulf, though some scientists

have said they believe the spill already surpasses the 11 million-gallon 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill off Alaska as the worst in U.S. history.

Obama administration officials continued defending their response while criticizing that of BP PLC, which leased the rig and is responsible for the cleanup. U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said he is "not completely" confident that BP knows what it's doing.

Brown pelican

In the 1960's, brown pelicans had nearly disappeared along the Gulf Coast. Their populations are threatened again due to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Oil spill risks

- Brown pelicans dive below surface for food; may eat tainted fish or feed it to their young
- Feathers could become oil-soaked and cause hypothermia or drowning
- Oil could kill vegetation near their nesting habitats



The smallest pelican

- Strong swimmers
- Require up to 4 lb. (1.8 kg) of fish a day
- Weight 7-11 lb. (3-5 kg)
- Beak 9-13 in. (23-34 cm)
- Height 4.5 ft. (1.4 m)
- Wingspan 7 ft. (2 m)



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

© 2010 MCT

Graphic: Melina Yingling

Hundreds march in Utah to honor slain 4-year-old

LAYTON, Utah (AP)—Hundreds of Utahns gathered for a 10-mile walk to honor a 4-year-old Virginia boy whose badly beaten body was dug up from a Utah mountainside grave nearly two weeks ago.

Ethan Stacy's mother and stepfather are being held in the case, and prosecutors have said the couple will likely be charged with aggravated murder in the boy's death.

Authorities have alleged that the stepfather, Nathan Sloop, beat the boy for days, then used a hammer to disfigure his face and teeth before burying his body.

On Saturday, about 400 people marched the 10.3-mile route from the Sloop's Layton apartment complex to the Davis County Justice Center—a gesture organizers say was intended as a symbolic call for justice for a child most here had never met.

"This is all too little and way too late, but maybe this is the bit of good that can be had from this whole sorry mess," said Calvin Cain, a father of three who strode purposefully near the middle of the pack.

"It's the kind of thing you can't make sense of, and you



In this photo made Saturday, May 22, 2010, Terra Garret and several hundred others participate in the ten mile "Walk for Ethan" in Layton, Utah, near the apartment where Ethan Stacy lived.

don't want to, because you don't want to believe anyone could do something like that to a child," he said.

Ethan, who had been in Utah for a summer visit with his mother, was buried Wednesday near his father's home in Richlands, Va.

Prosecutors have been waiting for an official cause of death

to be determined by the medical examiner, but are expected to file charges on Friday.

They have alleged that Sloop beat Ethan until he was unconscious, failed to get the boy medical help and then used a hammer on the child's face before burying him so that it would be more difficult to identify the body.

ACROSS THE NATION

New Hawaii congressman hopes for quick swearing-in

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii's newest member of Congress hopes to be quickly sworn in this week after his special election victory. Republican Charles Djou won solidly on Saturday to fill the vacant 1st Congressional District. He said Sunday he may take the oath of office as early as Tuesday. Djou also says he'd like to snag the Armed Services Committee and Committee on Natural Resources assignments that were held by his predecessor, Democrat Neil Abercrombie, who resigned in February to run for governor. Democrats predict Djou will lose his seat in November when he'll face only one Democratic nominee—not the two Democratic candidates he beat on Saturday. But Djou says he can win again by campaigning hard and stressing a message of fiscal responsibility.

NJ woman with MS charged with killing husband

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (AP)—A mother of three who has multiple sclerosis and uses a wheelchair was charged with fatally shooting her husband inside their northern New Jersey home. Family members said the couple were planning to end their 19-year-marriage, but authorities have not determined a motive. Amalia Mirasola, 44, was charged with homicide and a weapons offense one day after her 43-year-old husband, Carl, was found mortally wounded in a bedroom at their Butler home. Amalia Mirasola remained in the county jail on Sunday afternoon. Bail was set at \$1 million. Her lawyer, Robert Stack, has said she has no memory of what happened inside the home. Butler police said the shooting was reported shortly after 8 a.m. by someone who made a 911 call from the home, but further details have not been disclosed.

Vt. senator wants US-Canada border crossing closed

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont is asking Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to close the little-used Canadian border crossing at Morses Line. The Democratic senator told Napolitano in a letter Sunday that he's prepared to close the port during the Appropriations process, if necessary. Leahy says he agrees with those who attended a meeting Saturday with U.S. Customs and Border Protection representatives that the port is not a critical link in the nation's security or commerce. If it requires a lot of money to modernize it, it's best to close the port and use the money elsewhere. The Department of Homeland Security has received \$420 million to modernize land ports. Federal plans call for spending about \$5 million to renovate and expand the little-used Depression-era Morses Line station by seizing land from a Vermont dairy farm.

Police: Man sucked into sausage seasoning machine

DANVERS, Mass. (AP)—Police said a cleaning man was taken to a hospital after being sucked into a machine at a sausage-making company in Danvers. The accident happened Thursday night as the man was cleaning the vacuum-type machine that is used to season the meat at DiLigui Sausage Co. Police said the man's head and shoulders became stuck in the machine after it somehow activated while being cleaned. Lt. Carole Germano told The Salem News that the man—whose name was not released—was freed from the machine and showed no obvious sign of trauma, but was taken to a hospital as a precaution. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the mishap.

Asia

Lee: NKorea must pay for torpedo attack on ship

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president said Monday that the country will no longer tolerate North Korea's "brutality" and said the regime would pay for the surprise torpedo attack that killed 46 sailors.

President Lee Myung-bak said Seoul will take Pyongyang to the U.N. Security Council, suspend inter-Korean exchanges and ban North Korean ships from passing through its waters.

by North Korea that killed 46 South Korean sailors.

The administration said it endorsed President Lee Myung-bak's demand that "North Korea immediately apologize and punish those responsible for the attack, and, most importantly, stop its belligerent and threatening behavior."

Seoul can continue to count on the full backing of the United States, the White House said.

"U.S. support for South Korea's defense is unequivocal, and the president has directed his military commanders to coordinate closely with their

Republic of Korea counterparts to ensure readiness and to deter future aggression," the White House said.

■■■

North Korea must be punished for its repeated provocations, Lee said in a solemn address to the nation from the War Memorial as he recounted the "incessant" pattern of attacks by communist North Korea, including the downing of an airliner in 1987 that killed 115 people.

"We have always tolerated North Korea's brutality, time and again. We did so because we have always had a genuine longing for peace on the Korean peninsula," Lee said.

"But now things are different. North Korea will pay a price corresponding to its provocative acts," he said. "I will continue to take stern measures to hold the North accountable."

A joint international civilian-military investigation team announced last week that their probe confirmed a North Korean torpedo sank the South Korean warship, the *Cheonan*, on March 26.

Fifty-eight sailors were rescued from the choppy Yellow Sea waters off the Koreas' maritime border, but 46 perished—the nation's worst military disaster since the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea has steadfastly denied responsibility. The North's naval spokesman, Col. Pak In Ho, warned last week in comments to broadcaster APTN that any move to re-

taliate or punish Pyongyang would mean war.

As Lee spoke Monday, North Korea's main newspaper, the *Rodong Sinmun*, called the investigation results an "intolerable, grave provocation" tantamount to a declaration of war.

"The traitor's group will not avoid our merciless punishment," the paper said in commentary carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House said Monday that President Barack Obama "fully supports" the South Korean president and his response to the torpedo attack

Clinton: US, China must act together on NKorea

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged China on Monday to work with the United States to coordinate a response to the sinking of a South Korean warship, which has been blamed on North Korea.

Opening two days of high-level U.S.-China talks in Beijing, Clinton said North Korea must be held to account for the incident, which international investigators have determined was caused by a torpedo fired from a North Korean submarine.

China is North Korea's main ally and has thus far remained neutral on the investigation. U.S. officials say they have more work to do to convince China that North Korea was responsible for the ship sinking.

Clinton called the situation with North Korea a "matter of urgent concern."

"Today, we face another se-

rious challenge provoked by the sinking of the South Korean ship. So we must work together ... to address this challenge and advance our shared objectives of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula," she said.

"We ask North Korea to stop its provocative behavior, halt its policy of threats and belligerence toward its neighbors and take irreversible steps to fulfill its denuclearization commitments and comply with international law," Clinton said.

"The United States and China have consulted closely on the challenge posed by Iran's nuclear program," Clinton said. "The prospect of a nuclear armed Iran concerns us all."

She said a draft resolution that the U.S. and China have agreed on "sends a clear message to the Iranian leadership: Live up to your obligations or face growing isolation and consequences. As we continue to cooperate in New York, the burden is on Iran to demonstrate through its actions that it will uphold its responsibilities."

porters of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and the so-called Red Shirts, who are made up mainly of the urban and rural poor and see Abhisit's government as elitist and illegitimate. The rift with the Red Shirts, who have strong support in the country's north and northeast, came to a crescendo of violence after they occupied the heart of Bangkok, sparking a military crackdown that ended in a rampage of grenade attacks and arson at dozens of buildings, including the country's stock exchange and biggest shopping mall.

India PM: "major effort" in Indo-Pakistan talks

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's prime minister said Monday a major diplomatic effort was under way to improve ties between India and Pakistan, and that he was hopeful the talks would succeed. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's comments came three weeks after he and Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani agreed to resume peace talks and work toward rebuilding trust shattered by the deadly 2008 Mumbai terror attacks that New Delhi blamed on Pakistani militants. The two men had met at a regional summit in Bhutan. "A major effort is being made to bridge the trust deficit with Pakistan," Singh told reporters at a rare news conference.

Thai PM extends curfew; no polls until unrest over

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's prime minister on Sunday extended a nighttime curfew in the capital and said he will consider early elections only after the violence that has wracked the nation for the past two months is completely over. Elections are seen as a key step toward healing the deep divide that has split Thailand between sup-



South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, center, along with Defense Minister Kim Tae-young, front right, and other officials tour the War Memorial of Korea near a U.S. army base after Lee delivered a speech in Seoul, Monday, May 24, 2010. AP

Human error possible cause of Indian plane crash

MANGALORE, India (AP)—India's civil aviation minister said Monday that a human error might have caused the crash of an Air India Boeing 737-800 plane that killed 158 people over the weekend.

Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel told the CNN-IBN television news channel said weather conditions and other factors at time the plane reached its destination "looked absolutely normal for a regular touchdown and a safe landing."

"You can't rule out a human error factor," Patel said.

Only an inquiry could establish what exactly went wrong as the aircraft overshot the hilltop runway and crashed and plunged over a cliff and into a ravine at dawn Saturday on the outskirts of the southern Indian city of Mangalore, he said.

Of the 166 passengers and crew aboard, only eight people survived the crash.

Patel said there was no rain in the area and visibility was good at the time of the plane's landing.

Investigators and aviation

officials searched through the wreckage of the Boeing 737-800 strewn across a hillside to try to determine the cause of India's worst air disaster in more than a decade. They recovered the cockpit voice recorder

Harpreet Singh, an Air India spokeswoman.

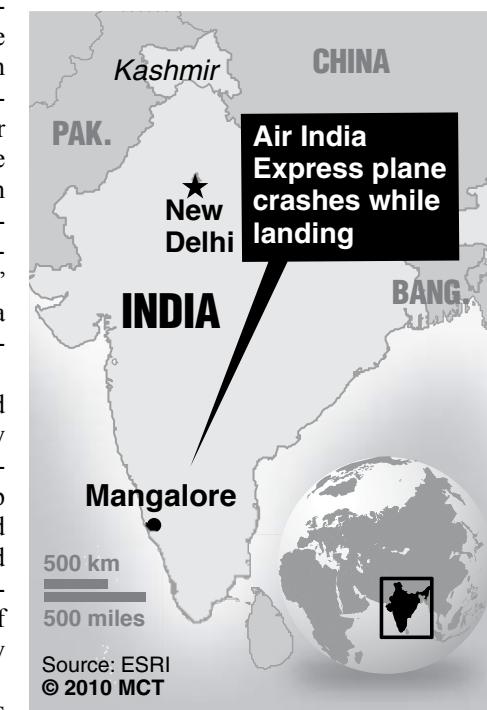
By Sunday evening, 146 of the 158 bodies had been identified and handed to grieving relatives for burial, said Arvind Jadhav, Air India's chairman and managing director.

Doctors were conducting DNA tests on 22 bodies that were so badly burned that relatives could not identify them, said Suresh Babu, an official at Wenlock hospital in Mangalore. They included a 2-year-old boy.

The black box would be sent to New Delhi for decoding and further investigations, officials said.

The flight from Dubai to Mangalore carried some of the millions of Indians who work as cheap labor in the Middle East back to their families for a rare visit during India's summer holiday season.

Aviation experts said the eight survivors were seated in the center of the aircraft, near where it broke open, and they managed to get out before a fireball engulfed the plane.



Source: ESRI

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World

WORLD BRIEFS

Congo pastor loses 9 out of 10 children in war

MWESO, Congo (AP)—First, the rebels killed four of Joseph Munyaneza's children in 1997. The family fled to another village. The following year, that village came under siege. Another four children died of gunshot wounds. Then the baby, from malnutrition. Today, Munyaneza, a 52-year-old Protestant pastor, tenderly cares for his 17-year-old daughter, who is in hospital after being kidnapped by rebels a month ago. When the rebels tired of raping her skinny body, they forced a stick up her vagina until it protruded through her side. "She is the only child left out of 10 I had with my first wife," Munyaneza says, holding the moaning teenager's hand and clucking sounds of comfort as one would to calm a baby.

Israel holds defense drill amid regional tension

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel held a dress rehearsal for disaster Sunday, beginning a defense drill to test the response of soldiers, emergency crews and civilians to simulated missile barrages, terrorist attacks and chemical strikes. Israel embarked on its fourth annual home front drill at a time when Iranian-backed militants are rearming to Israel's north and south, and Iran itself is suspected of developing nuclear arms, despite its denials. The five-day exercise, the biggest in Israel's history, has raised allegations by the country's enemies that it is preparing for war—a concern Israel has sought to allay. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the drill is a "routine exercise that was scheduled long ago."

5.9-magnitude earthquake hits Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Seismologists say a 5.9-magnitude earthquake has shaken southern Peru. There are no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The U.S. Geological Survey says the tremor struck at 5:46 p.m. local time (2246GMT) Sunday. Its epicenter was near the city of Ayacucho, and about 225 miles (360 kilometers) from the capital of Lima. The USGS measured the depth of the quake at 68 miles (110 kilometers). RPP radio says shaking was felt in the regions of Ayacucho, Apurimac, Ica and southern Lima.

Yemeni cleric calls for killing US civilians

CAIRO (AP)—A U.S.-born cleric who has encouraged Muslims to kill American soldiers called for the killing of U.S. civilians in his first video released by a Yemeni offshoot of al-Qaida, providing the most overt link yet between the radical preacher and the terror group.

Dressed in a white Yemeni robe, turban and with a traditional jambiyah dagger tucked into his waistband, Anwar Al-Awlaki used the 45-minute video posted Sunday to justify civilian deaths—and encourage them—by accusing the United States of intentionally killing a million Muslim civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

American civilians are to blame, he said, because "the American people, in general, are taking part in this and they elected this administration and they are financing the war."

"Those who might be killed in a plane are merely a drop of water in a sea," he said in the video in response to a question about Muslim groups that disapproved of the airliner plot because it targeted civilians.

Al-Awlaki, who was born in New Mexico and is believed to be hiding in his parents' native Yemen, has used his personal website to encourage Muslims around the world to kill U.S. troops in Iraq.

He has emerged as a prominent



This Oct. 2008 file photo provided by Muhammad ud-Deen shows Imam Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen. AP

Iran spy chief insists three jailed Americans are spies

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's intelligence minister on Sunday signaled that Tehran might be open to a prisoner swap with the U.S. for three Americans jailed in Iran since last July.

Sarah Shourd, 31, Shane Bauer, 27, and Josh Fattal, 27, were arrested along the Iraqi border 10 months ago. Iran has accused them of espionage and entering the country illegally; their families say the three were hiking in Iraq's largely peaceful mountainous northern Kurdish region and that if they crossed the border, it was accidental.

Iran has repeatedly accused the U.S. of abducting some 10 Iranians abroad and sentencing them to prison terms.

On Thursday, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters in Washington that the U.S. is "not contemplating any kind of a prisoner swap" for the three Americans.

"But if Iran has questions about any of its citizens and whether we have any information as to their whereabouts, we would be more than happy to receive that diplomatic note and respond to it," he said.

Moslehi's comments on Sunday fall far short of the prisoner exchange that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad proposed in March. That idea, however, failed to gain traction at the time.

a humanitarian gesture toward Iranians in U.S. custody similar to the one Iran made last week toward the mothers.

"Our expectation is that the U.S., which has a claim on human rights issues, could make a similar human rights gesture to us, then we may get to the stage of whether or not there would be a swap," Moslehi said. He did not elaborate.

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Cuba to transfer political prisoners close to home

HAVANA (AP)—The Cuban government has agreed to move many of the country's 200 political prisoners to jails closer to their homes, and will give medical attention to some ailing prisoners, a church official told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The government's decision comes just days after a rare meeting between Cuban President Raul Castro and two church leaders, including Cuban Cardinal Jaime Ortega. After the meeting, Ortega said he was optimistic that there was willingness on the government's side to compromise.

"The office of religious af-

Jamaica: Gunfire, fire bombs in barricaded slum

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Masked men defending a reputed drug lord sought by the United States torched a police station and traded gunfire with security forces in a patchwork of barricaded slums in Jamaica's capital Sunday.

The government declared a state of emergency as sporadic gunshots rang out in gritty West Kingston, stronghold of Christopher "Dudus" Coke, a Jamaican "don" charged in the U.S. with drug and arms trafficking. His defiant supporters turned his Tivoli Gardens neighborhood and other areas into a virtual fortress with trashed cars and barbed wire.

A police station in Dehnham

fairs of the central committee of the Cuban Communist Party advised the Catholic Church on Friday that as of next week the political prisoners will be transferred to jails in their place of origin," Orlando Marquez, a Havana church official, told AP.

It was not clear if all of the political prisoners would be moved, or how many of those who are ailing will receive treatment.

Marquez also said that a senior church leader, Havana auxiliary bishop Juan de Dios Hernandez, had visited hunger-striking dissident Guillermo Farinas in his home in central

Town came under heavy fire from gangsters roaming the streets with high-powered guns. In barricaded Hannah Town, close to Tivoli Gardens, black smoke spiraled into the sky from a police station set aflame by molotov cocktails.

Officers fled the burning station in impoverished West Kingston, where a 2001 standoff between gunmen and security forces killed 25 civilians as well as a soldier and a constable.

Authorities said two security officers had been wounded by Sunday night.

Police said the attacks were unprovoked. It called for all "decent and law-abiding citizens" in the

alent al-Qaida recruiter and has been tied by U.S. intelligence to the 9/11 hijackers, the suspects in the November shooting at an Army base in Fort Hood, Texas, and the December attempt to blow up a U.S. jetliner bound for Detroit.

For U.S. officials, al-Awlaki is of particular concern because he is one of the few English-speaking radical clerics able to explain to young Muslims in America and other Western countries the philosophy of violent jihad.

Al-Awlaki's direct role in al-Qaida—if any—remains unclear. The U.S. says he is an active participant in the group, though members of his tribe have denied that.

However, Sunday's video provides the clearest link yet between the cleric and the terror group.

It was produced by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula's media arm, which touted the recording as its first interview with al-Awlaki. It may also indicate al-Qaida is trying to seize upon al-Awlaki's recruiting prowess by featuring him in its videos.

In the months before the Fort Hood shooting, which killed 13 people, al-Awlaki exchanged e-mails with the alleged attacker, U.S. Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan. Hasan initiated the contacts, drawn by al-Awlaki's Internet sermons, and approached him for religious advice.

Farinas has refused food for 89 days, though he receives nutrients through a tube and has appeared strong and alert in recent phone conversations with the AP.

Another Cuban dissident, Orlando Zapata Tamayo, died Feb. 23 after a lengthy hunger strike in jail.

Farinas called his hunger strike to protest Zapata Tamayo's death, and has said since then that his main demand is better treatment for 26 political prisoners said to be in poor health.

Police Commissioner Owen Ellington said "scores of criminals" from gangs across the Caribbean island had traveled to West Kingston to join the fight.

"It is now clear that criminal elements are determined to launch coordinated attacks on the security forces," he said.

In a gritty section of the capital of an island known more for reggae and all-inclusive resorts, the violence erupted after nearly a week of rising tensions over the possible extradition of Coke to the United States.

Focus

Economy triggers uniform decision

By KRISTEN MACK
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—Tim Brooks didn't know how he was going to pay for school. The Ashburn, Ill., teen doesn't have a college fund. There are no sports at his high school, so athletic scholarships aren't an option and academic scholarships alone won't cover the bill. But Brooks found one way to get the money he needs: a \$180,000 ROTC scholarship.

"The military was the best way for me to go," said Brooks, 17, who enlisted in the Marine Corps in November and graduates from high school in June.

Signing up to serve is no longer considered a fallback for those without higher education ambitions. It has increasingly become the option of first resort to pay for school in a tough economy—despite the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Last year was the first time the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the reserves met or exceeded their recruiting goals since the start of the all-volunteer force in 1973, according to numbers provided by the military. This comes just a few years after the Army relaxed its standards to meet goals. For example, in 2007, less than 80 percent of Army recruits had a high school diploma. In 2009, almost 95 percent of the Army's recruits did.

The military's ranks have been boosted by recruits like Brooks who would not have considered enlisting in a booming economy. The impact of the recession, growing unemployment, the rising cost of college and improving attitudes toward military service have contributed to a favorable recruiting environment, experts and military officials said.

Brooks' mother, Arteck Fashoda, was initially concerned about her son's plans to join the Marines. During an emotional meeting with a recruiter, she asked whether her son would have to fight, since he's the last in his bloodline to carry the family name.

"Yes, they call everyone," the recruiter told her. After weighing the risks, Fashoda decided to support her son, believing the safety net the military provides after college will give him a boost in the working world.

"I never wanted him to start life out in debt," she said. "That was the determining factor."

The success of an all-volunteer force depends on convincing recruits it's a good deal compared to other choices, said Loren Thompson, a military analyst with the Lexington Institute. Military service attracts volunteers because people are rewarded on merit, get paid well, retire with good benefits and still have time for a second career, Thompson said.

"There are few places in the private sector where young people can get the same return," he said. "That place is not General Motors."

When unemployment increases, military enrollment—especially among "high quality" recruits with a high school diploma who score well on aptitude tests—increases in kind, an Army spokesman said.



United States Marine Corps Sgt. David Pope, right, keeps track of time while senior Angelica Moss, 18, hangs from the pull-up bar outside the lunchroom at Vernon Hills High School in Vernon Hills, Illinois, May 11, 2010.

High schools remain fertile recruiting ground for the military. Schools are even ranked by priority based on the number of eligible males and the kind of access they allow.

Scott Birtman, the college counselor at Vernon Hills High School, says recruiting tactics have changed. Each

professional selling skills, including how to handle indifferent customers, said Master Sgt. Alain Reyes. Their tactics have paid off.

In Chicago, those who enlisted in the Marines in April will have to wait until January 2011 to get a spot in boot camp. "We're not in a direct-ship market

lege, minimum wage or the military," Frank said of high school students. "There are other ways to serve your country, find adventure and learn a skill."

Fashoda's ex-husband, Timothy Brooks, also was nervous about their son's plans to join the Marines.

"It was kind of shocking to think about war and your son going off when you don't know how long it's going to last," he said. "I hope by the time he gets out (of college) the war is over."

The younger Brooks convinced his parents, in part, by assuring them it was unlikely he would be a grunt with trigger time.

"Not to brag, but I'm smart," Brooks said. "I tested high enough that my job will be doing something with electronics. I won't be in the fight."

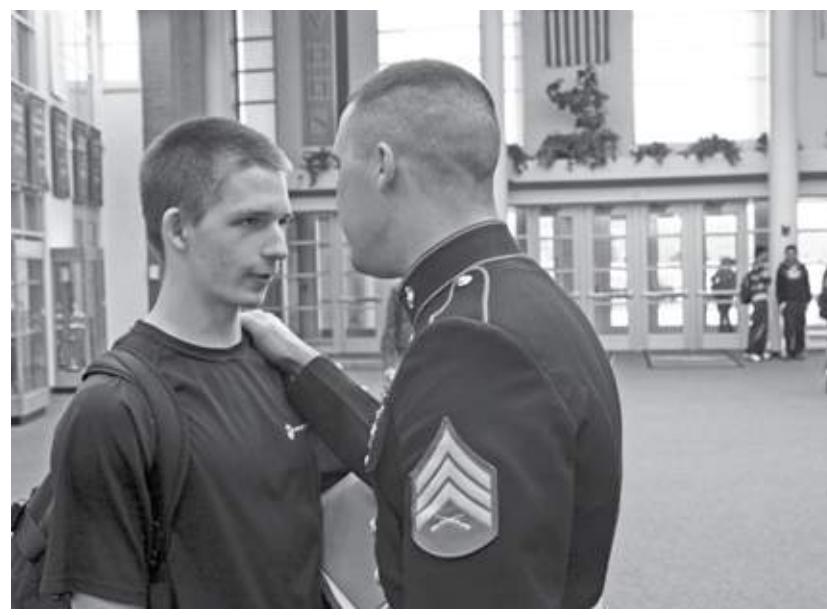
Thompson, the military analyst, said he continues to be surprised by the number of people who enlist in today's active deployment environment.

"Many people, myself included, have thought the level of violence would deter volunteers from signing up. But it hasn't happened," he said. "When the pay and benefits are good and there are few alternatives, many young adults are willing to take a chance in order to have a better life."

Some enlistees have found ways to potentially avoid warfare. Michael McCracken, a junior at Vernon Hills, earned a spot in the Marine Corps Band next year. Combat has crossed his mind a few times, he said, "but I didn't let it stick."

His father, Chris McCracken, a Navy veteran of 20 years, said military enlistees know the life they've signed up for.

"I do worry more now with what's going on in the world. Is it a concern that keeps me up at night? No," he said. "Would I like to see him avoid combat?"



Vernon Hills High School junior and Marine Corps recruit Mike McCracken, 17, left, talks with United States Marine Corps Sergeant David Pope outside the lunchroom at Vernon Hills High School in Vernon Hills, Illinois, May 11, 2010.

branch at this school gets one day a month to recruit. The Marines sit in on orchestra classes, work out with kids and chaperone the student prom. They strive to be a constant presence, which makes it easier for recruiters to approach students.

During monthly visits Sgt. David Pope uses a pull-up bar as a prop. He also offers incentives—complete 10 pull-ups for a pencil or sticker. Do 20 pull-ups to earn a T-shirt.

Marine recruiters are even taught

where we are trying to convince kids to ship this month," Reyes said. "We're not in that pressure hold."

But not everyone agrees with the armed forces' approach. Libby Frank's son was troubled by the military recruiting techniques at Prospect High School. So she formed the Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Project, an outpost of the National Network Opposing Militarization of Youth, to discuss alternatives to joining the military.

"They feel their options in life are col-

Signing up

The U.S. armed forces met or exceeded 2009 recruitment goals, an achievement military officials see as a sign of tough economic times and rising college costs.

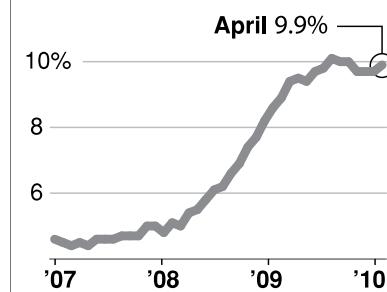
Military recruits

By branch, 2009

	Recruits	Percent of goal
Army	70,045	108%
Navy	35,527	100
Marines	31,413	100
Air Force	31,983	100

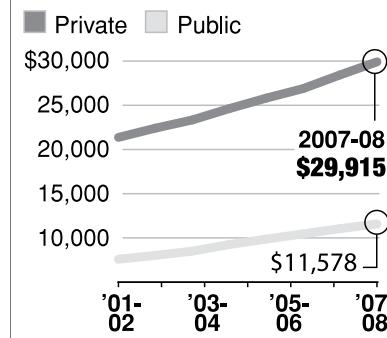
Jobless rate

Monthly, seasonally adjusted



College costs

Annual tuition, fees, room and board for a full-time undergraduate



Source: U.S. Department of Defense, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Charts showing number of recruits for 2009 for each of the U.S. armed services, as well as trend in jobless rate since 2007 and in college costs since 2001; military officials credit rising unemployment and tuition costs for increase in recruits.

Oh, hell yeah."

Once he's completed his four-year enlistment, McCracken, who plays the euphonium, plans to join a musical conservatory.

"I don't have \$600,000 to pay for three doctorate degrees in music," he said. "This way I'll get paid to go to college."

Salan Maria Kneisati's sees the Marines as job security.

"I don't see any drawbacks," said Kneisati, 18, who plans to enroll in college after boot camp. "Before, you couldn't get anywhere without a high school degree. Now you can't get anywhere with (just) a high school degree."

Kneisati is physically ready, but occasionally she has doubts.

"You can't help but question yourself sometimes," she said. "My nerves are (through) the roof."

Kneisati ships out June 21—10 days after she graduates from high school.

Overdrive

A conversation with the cars of the future

By MICHAEL A. LINDENBERGER
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

HOUSTON—Cars that talk are no big deal. For years, they've been telling us to buckle up or close the door or get some gas. But listen up: If the U.S. Department of Transportation has its way, our cars will soon be talking to each other, and when they do, they'll have a lot more to tell us, too.

The government expects cars within a few years will be able to tell you when you fall asleep at the wheel, will automatically apply the brakes when you don't notice the stalled truck ahead of you and will give you a heads-up about the traffic jam on the interstate—an hour before it happens.

Welcome to the smart car of the future. And it's nearer than you think.

Some of the technology is already in use and available as options on some new cars. But what government researchers are developing would take those motion detectors and other gadgets to a whole new level.

Federal officials say your car should do more than just detect obstacles in its path: It should talk to the other cars on the road, even if they are out of sight.

Early pilot programs are under way across the country. And in other places, including Dallas, transportation officials are spending federal money to build networks of real-time information about traffic and accidents—systems that would be greatly expanded once cars begin sending data about their speeds and routes.

"We are fully committed to dedicated short-range communications that can deliver real-time information and data to and between vehicles on the road," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said at a recent gathering of government officials, academics and tech firms seeking clients.

The push for new technology in cars and trucks—and commercial vehicles and ships, too—is not without controversy.

Some safety advocates wonder whether making our cars smarter will end up making their drivers dumber, or at least less likely to pay attention to the road.

That's a big issue because LaHood has launched a closely followed nation-



Automated systems guide cars in perfect formation as drivers keep their hands out the windows in California recently.

COMING TECHNOLOGY

Some of the ways technology could be used in "smart cars":

- Black-box type devices in cars would emit continuous signals announcing their speed and location, which a similar box in your car would monitor, sending alerts when vehicles nearby swerve or stop suddenly.
- If enough cars on a traffic corridor were equipped with the data boxes, traffic managers could use software to make real-time decisions

about how police should respond to accidents or even send alerts about stalled traffic to drivers.

- Eventually, local officials could predict traffic jams before they happen. Singapore can examine automobile traffic patterns and predict traffic jams up to 45 minutes beforehand. A pilot program there has proven about 90 percent accurate in predicting how many cars a corridor can expect, information that is used to adjust 1,700 sets of traffic lights.

al campaign to get drivers to stop using cell phones, one that has triggered 25 states to fully ban texting while driving. Last week, he went further, scolding car companies for enabling hands-free wireless devices for drivers.

"The voice-activated devices in the car are distractions," he said.

Still, LaHood said the government's

research will trigger "countless commercial applications." And other top federal officials said they grapple daily with striking a balance between research that enhances safety and research that leads to further driver distractions.

Still, the momentum is clearly on the side of the research, which LaHood and business leaders said has enormous potential for improving safety. Making cars notice when a motorcycle is speeding up from the rear or detect a stalled car around the next curve that a driver can't see is only the start, said Samuel Palmisano, chairman and chief executive of IBM.

The real benefit for traffic-weary places like Dallas, Palmisano said, will come when local officials learn to take data emitted from thousands of cars and use it to make better real-time decisions about how traffic should be managed.

"Out of those mountains of data can come insight," said Palmisano, whose firm has invested billions of dollars in analytics, a science that processes billions of pieces of data to make quick decisions.

Some of the fanciest uses for the technology are probably years away, officials said, but other ideas, including creating ways for cars to continuously talk to each other, are much closer.

Some of the grander concepts—such as developing a whole corridor of traffic into a "network" that can predict jams up to an hour before they happen—are still several years out, said Peter Appel,

who runs the \$1 billion annual research program for the U.S. Department of Transportation. "But we don't have to wait to get started. Some of these ideas are much closer than that."

Here's the basic idea: Put communication devices in sealed-off boxes in cars and let them constantly emit signals about their speed and trajectory—and eventually whether they are using headlights or wipers—that can be read by nearby cars.

That way, even if you can't see a vehicle stopped ahead, your car can. It will trigger an alert, and if that doesn't get your attention, it could apply the brakes itself.

Appel said costs aren't yet known, but he said the government believes the vehicle-to-vehicle communication boxes will be much cheaper to install than the commercial line-of-sight detectors some luxury cars already have.

How soon can that happen?

Within the next year or so, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will decide whether Appel's team and others have advanced the technology enough to evaluate requiring manufacturers to install the vehicle-to-vehicle communications devices.

That would take three years or more, but experts say the private sector will probably move earlier than that, with boxes that could be retrofitted for cars already on the road.

Other applications are already being tested across the country, including by transit agencies.

Transit officials in Minnesota, for instance, wanted a light-rail line but couldn't afford it. They then considered a bus rapid-transit service, which requires a dedicated highway lane. They couldn't afford the new lane, either.

Instead, they are testing a system that speeds 9 1/2-foot-wide buses along a 10-foot highway shoulder. A GPS system maps the route down to the inch and loads it into the bus's computer. Drivers then look through a screen to see the road ahead along with bright yellow digital lane markers, like the digital first-down lines that broadcasters use during pro football games.

If the bus strays a few inches from its path, the markers turn red, and, if needed, the steering wheel tugs the other way.

Coolant can spell doom if it mixes with oil

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: I have a 2002 Olds Alero with the V6 engine. Recently I noticed that coolant is leaking. I have been told it is a slow leak from the intake gasket. My mechanic recommended that I get the leak fixed to avoid having the coolant mix with the oil. Is there a way to tell whether the leak is external or internal? If it's external, do I really need to fix it?

The car has about 95,000 miles on it, but my mechanic says that with this fix, some new plugs, wires and regular maintenance, the car will go 200,000 miles easy. Do you agree? Should I spend the \$800 to \$1,000 for the intake fix, new plugs, and new wires?

Answer: Coolant leaking internally from the intake manifold gasket or cylinder head gasket can end up in one of two places: mixed with the engine oil or burned with the air-fuel mixture in the exhaust. Coolant mixed with oil is bad news because ethylene glycol doesn't work well as a lubricant. It doesn't take long for contaminated oil to destroy an engine.

Coolant leaking into the combustion chambers, where it vaporizes and is carried out the exhaust, doesn't sound so bad, right? In very small doses, it isn't. But any significant coolant consumption can strip oil from cylinder walls and etch or corrode aluminum pistons.

Relatively simple, inexpensive tests can identify specific internal coolant leaks. A visual inspection of the oil, oil dipstick, oil filler cap and PCV valve may show a white, milky film of ho-

mogenized oil and coolant. An increase in oil level or the bittersweet smell of ethylene glycol on the dipstick are solid evidence of a significant internal leak.

The smell of coolant and/or a whitish cloud of smoke from the exhaust at startup can be an indicator of coolant in the combustion chambers, which can be confirmed by a chemical test for exhaust hydrocarbons in the coolant. Pressure-testing the cooling system and starting a cold engine with the radiator cap off to see if coolant is immediately pumped out can also confirm a leaking cylinder head gasket. Engine overheating or fluctuating coolant temperatures are also indicators of coolant loss.

External coolant leaks can be identified by residual coolant odor after shutting down the engine, coolant smoke or steam wafting from the en-

gine compartment, or drips, puddles and stains on the garage floor.

While I tend to agree with your mechanic, although 200,000 miles might be a push, I would suggest trying a quality stop-leak product like Mendite or SilverSeal added to the cooling system. I've had remarkable luck stopping intake manifold gasket leaks with these products, but even if they don't work as a permanent fix, you can still have the lower intake manifold gasket replaced.

The bottom line: As long as the coolant leak is relatively small, doesn't contaminate the oil and doesn't allow the engine to overheat, try the stop-leak product first. If the leak is beyond these simple parameters, have the repair done professionally.

■ ■ ■

Q: When I changed the transmission fluid on my 2005 Impala, a

4-inch "clip" with a V in the middle fell out. I don't know what it's for or where it goes. I think it was near the transmission filter. I'm going nuts with this one.

A: It is the "thermo element," which is retained by two pins so the "V" is in contact with the thermo element plate. This component is designed to restrict oil flow to the pan until the oil is up to temperature. It needs to be reinstalled and properly adjusted.

Paul Brand, author of "How to Repair Your Car," is an automotive trouble-shooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Life & Style

Thai film 'Boonmee' wins top honor at Cannes fest

CANNES, France (AP)—The hypnotic Thai film “Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives” won the top honor at the Cannes Film Festival on Sunday, while Academy Award winners Juliette Binoche and Javier Bardem earned acting honors.

“Uncle Boonmee,” directed by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, traces the dreamlike final days of a man dying of kidney fail-

ure as the ghost of his dead wife returns to tend him and his long-lost son comes home in the form of a furry jungle spirit.

“I would like to thank my mother and my father, who 30 years ago, they took me to a little cinema in our little town, and I was so young and didn’t know what it was on the screen,” said Weerasethakul, who previously won the third-place jury prize at Cannes with his 2004 film “Tropical Malady.” “I didn’t know the concept

of cinema. With this award, I think I know a little more what cinema is, but it still remains a mystery. I think this mystery keeps us coming back here and to share our world.”

Binoche, an Oscar winner for “The English Patient,” won best actress for the cryptic love story “Certified Copy,” directed by past Palme d’Or winner Abbas Kiarostami.

During her speech, Binoche pleaded for the release of Kiarostami’s countryman, detained Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi—who had been asked to be on this year’s nine-member jury.

“I hope he will be here himself next year,” Binoche said, as she clutched a nameplate emblazoned with the director’s name. “It’s hard to be an artist and an intellectual, and the country needs you.”

Bardem, an Oscar winner for “No Country for Old Men,” shared the Cannes best-actor prize, earning his honor for Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu’s “Biutiful,” a grim portrait of a dying father supporting his family with a variety of criminal rackets in Barcelona. Also playing a father in crisis, Elio Germano shared the best-actor award for Italian filmmaker Daniele Luchetti’s “Our Life,” a drama about a widower with three sons.

From right, joint winner of the award for Best Actor Javier Bardem, winner of the award for Best Screenplay director Apichatpong Weerasethakul, jury member Alberto Barbera, jury member Benicio Del Toro and winner of the Jury Prize award Mahamat-Saleh Haroun pose after the awards ceremony at the 63rd international film festival, in Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 23, 2010. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 600 museums nationwide are offering free admission to military families all summer in a new partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

she said, adding that the recession has changed priorities for many people. “When the kids and I go to museums this summer, we know we’re being welcomed. It will make us feel less alone.”

Roth-Douquet, who lives in Parris Island, S.C., said military bases are sometimes far from cultural centers, though museums can be a good escape.

The Defense Department is helping to promote the offer, and Roth-Douquet said some military bases may coordinate bus trips.

When her family was based in London for a time, she and her son and daughter spent an entire summer visiting museums because many were free. As a result, she said, her 8-year-old son Charlie now draws for hours each day.

This summer, they’re planning a road trip along the East Coast to visit museums. Normally, a \$20 ticket to MoMA in New York might rule it out, she said. Now they could also stop for free at Washington’s Corcoran Gallery of Art or New York’s Jewish Museum.

CANNES, France (AP)—A hopeful tale of a family rebuilding after tragedy will close this year’s rather dour edition of the Cannes Film Festival on an optimistic note Sunday.

“The Tree” tells the story of a young girl convinced the spirit of her dead father lives on in a sprawling fig tree. Its gentle tone and life-affirming message contrast with the gloominess of many of the 19 movies competing in an official selection dominated this year by violent and depressing movies.

As the festival’s closing film, “The Tree” is not in the running for the top prize, the Palme d’Or.

French director Julie Bertuccelli said she has always been obsessed with the idea of making a movie about a tree.

“I have really vivid memories from my childhood of be-

CANNES WINNERS

CANNES, France (AP)—Awards presented Sunday at the 63rd Cannes Film Festival, chosen by a jury headed by U.S. director Tim Burton:

- Palme d’Or (Golden Palm): “Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives” by Apichatpong Weerasethakul (Thailand)
- Grand Prize: “Of Gods and Men” by Xavier Beauvois (France)
- Jury Prize: “A Screaming Man” by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun (Chad)
- Best Director: Mathieu Amalric for “On Tour” (France)
- Best Actor: Javier Bardem, “Biutiful” (Mexico) and Elio Germano, “La Nostra Vita” (Italy)
- Best Actress: Juliette Binoche, “Certified Copy” (Iran)
- Best Screenplay: Lee Chang-Dong, “Poetry” (Korea)
- Camera d’Or (first-time director): “Ano Bisiento” by Michael Rowe (Mexico)
- Best short film: “Chienne d’Histoire,” by Serge Avedikian (France)

“I’m very happy that we are sharing the best actor,” Bardem said at a news conference alongside Germano, adding it should happen more often “so less people lose. It’s very hard for people to lose in the sense of, in a festival, you can’t really say what’s best. I mean, it’s nine people’s opinion, and I’ve been on the jury here, and I can assure you that it’s very, very difficult to put nine people in agreement to like anything.”

The second-place grand prize went to French director Xavier Beauvois’ solemn drama “Of Gods and Men,” based on the true story of seven French monks beheaded during Algeria’s civil war in 1996.

Chadian director Mahamat-Saleh Haroun’s stark film “A Screaming Man” received the third-place jury prize. The film chronicles the tragic consequences for a father after he loses his cherished job as a swimming pool attendant to his son amid his country’s civil war.

French actor-filmmaker Mathieu Amalric won the directing award for “On Tour,” in which he plays the manager of a troupe of American burlesque strippers performing around France. Amalric invited his five stripper stars to join him on stage as he accepted the prize.

The screenplay honor was presented to South Korean director Lee Chang-dong for



Life-affirming French film closes Cannes

ing up in the trees, that way of seeing the world that’s at once a bit removed and at the center of everything,” Bertuccelli said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The movie stars French-British actress Charlotte Gainsbourg—daughter of the late French crooner Serge Gainsbourg—as Dawn, an overwhelmed widow and mother of four, and 8-year-old first-timer Morgana Davies as Simone, the grief-struck girl.

Her husband’s sudden death sends Dawn into a tailspin, as she retreats into the bedroom, sleeping all day and leaving her children to fend for themselves. Simone seeks comfort in nature, spending time in the sprawling tree that overhangs the family house. Soon she is convinced she hears her father’s voice in the tree’s wind-

rustled leaves.

When its massive root system starts tearing up the plumbing, Dawn decides to chop the tree down, but Simone is having none of it.

Set in Australia, “The Tree” celebrates the country’s monumental landscapes and unique wildlife. Bertuccelli draws on her long experience as a documentary filmmaker, peppering the movie with picture-postcard shots of the sun-baked plains.

Bertuccelli’s last movie, the critically acclaimed “Since Otar Left,” was also set in a foreign country—Georgia. Shooting abroad is “much more complicated” than shooting at home, she said, but also a much richer experience. “It’s like travel, but also work, which is even more of a joy,” she said. “You meet people, you form routines—it’s like real life.”

“Poetry,” his gentle portrait of a grandmother (Yun Junghee) struggling to write a poem as she copes with the onset of Alzheimer’s and her troublesome grandson.

The festival’s Camera d’Or award for a first-time filmmaker went to Michael Rowe’s “Leap Year,” a romance that plays out in Mexico City.

South Korean filmmaker Hong Sangsoo’s “Ha Ha Ha,” a drama of alternating memories shared by two friends over drinks, won a secondary competition called “Un Certain Regard.”

Films from two British past Palme d’Or winners—Mike Leigh’s “Another Year” and Ken Loach’s “Route Irish”—were shut out for prizes.

Also coming away empty-handed was the lone American film among the 19 contenders, Doug Liman’s “Fair Game,” a drama about former CIA operative Valerie Plame that stars Naomi Watts and Sean Penn.

UK tabloid: Duchess offered access for cash

LONDON (AP)—Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson said Sunday she was “very sorry” for her lapse of judgment after she was recording apparently offering to sell access to her ex-husband Prince Andrew in return for 500,000 pounds (\$724,000).

The duchess said in a statement that she had financial problems, but “that is no excuse for a serious lapse in judgment and I am very sorry that this has happened.”

“I very deeply regret the situation and the embarrassment caused,” she said.

The tabloid News of the World posted video on its website that appears to show Ferguson discussing payment terms. She is heard to say “500,000 pounds when you can, to me, open doors.”

Asked if she was referring to the prince, she said: “Yeah.”

The newspaper said Ferguson, 50, spoke to an undercover reporter posing as a businessman.

Andrew is an international British trade ambassador. Both the newspaper and the duchess said he had no knowledge of the meeting.

Buckingham Palace also said the prince had been unaware of the meeting. It said he carried out his trade role with “complete and absolute propriety and integrity.”

The tabloid report is embarrassing for Ferguson, but there is no suggestion she did anything illegal.

Ferguson married Andrew, who is fourth in line to the throne, in 1986. They had two children, princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, before divorcing in 1996.

Since then Ferguson has

written children’s books, made television documentaries and acted as a spokeswoman for Weight Watchers.

She also has struggled financially and has complained that her divorce settlement was stingy.

Recently the company set up to manage her U.S. career in publishing, public speaking and media work, Hartmoor LLC, collapsed with debts of around \$1 million.

Ferguson is scheduled to receive an award for her charity work in Los Angeles on Sunday.

The sting was the latest scoop for News of the World undercover reporter Mazher Mahmood, nicknamed the “Fake Sheik” after his signature ruse of pretending to be a rich Gulf businessman to dupe celebrities, politicians and suspected criminals.

He is a controversial figure

who has targeted members of the royal family before. One of Mahmood’s most famous scoops was a 2001 sting involving Prince Edward’s wife. Posing as an aide to a Saudi Arabian prince interested in hiring her public relations company, Mahmood charmed Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, into making indiscreet comments about the British government. She also was caught on tape describing then-Prime Minister Tony Blair’s wife, Cherie, as “horrid, horrid, horrid.”

‘Memphis’ wins 4 prizes at NY Drama Desk Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Rhythm ‘n’ blues were the winners at this year’s Drama Desk Awards.

The exuberant musical “Memphis” led the list of winners at Sunday’s ceremony held by the Drama Desk, an organization of theater journalists and critics.

The new musical set in 1950s Memphis dance clubs picked up four prizes including best musical, orchestration, and music, which went to Bon Jovi keyboard player David Bryan. “Memphis” actress Montego Glover tied with Catherine Zeta Jones in “A Little Night Music” for Outstanding Actress in a Musical. Glover plays a black club singer who falls in love with a white DJ. “Memphis” is also nominated for eight Tony Awards, which will be presented next month.

Meanwhile, “Red,” a drama about the tortured Abstract Expressionist painter Mark Rothko, garnered best play by the Drama Desk. “Red” also won top honors for director, Michael Grandage, and lighting design.

Liev Schreiber, who portrays Brooklyn longshoreman Eddie Carbone in Arthur Miller’s “A View From the Bridge,” was named best actor-play, while Jan Maxwell, in the Broadway comedy “The Royal Family,” was picked as best actress.

“A View from the Bridge” and August Wilson’s “Fences” tied for best revival of a play while “La Cage Aux Folles” won for best revival of a musical, best actor in a musical, Douglas Hodge, and best costume design.

Other acting prizes went to Santino Fontana in “Brighton Beach Memoirs,” Viola Davis in “Fences,” Christopher Fitzgerald in “Finian’s Rainbow,” and Katie Finneran in the musical “Promises, Promises.”

Twyla Tharp received top choreography honors for “Come Fly Away,” John Kander and Fred Ebb garnered best lyricist prize for “The Scottsboro Boys,” and saxophonist Branford Marsalis won for best music in a play.



In this Oct. 22, 2007 file photo Britain’s Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson arrives at the third annual Quill Awards, honoring books and authors, New York.

‘Shrek Forever After’ tops the box office with \$71.3M haul

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Shrek Forever After” roared its way to the top of the box office, making \$71.3 million in its opening weekend.

But the fourth film in the monster franchise from DreamWorks Animation had the weakest debut of all “Shrek” sequels, according to studio estimates Sunday. “Shrek 2,” from 2004, opened with \$108 million. “Shrek the Third,” from 2007, made \$121.6 million in its first weekend.

And the latest installment was available for the first time in 3-D and IMAX 3-D, where

ticket prices are higher—up to \$19 in Manhattan. “Shrek” made just under \$5 million on IMAX screens, or 7 percent of the film’s weekend gross.

This time, Shrek—voiced as always by Mike Myers—is experiencing a mid-life crisis, so he makes a deal with Rumpelstiltskin to live as a fearsome ogre again for one day. Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy and Antonio Banderas return to the voice cast.

“We’re obviously happy to be the No. 1 movie, which we anticipated,” said Anne Gable, head of worldwide marketing for DreamWorks Animation.

“It’s a little lower than we anticipated but it’s still No. 4 among all animated openings of all time, behind the first two ‘Shrek’ sequels and ‘The Simpsons (Movie),’” which opened with \$74 million in 2007.

In explaining the compara-

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Shrek: The Final Chapter

Synopsis

The wisecracking green-toned ogre returns in Shrek Forever After, the newest installment in the successful DreamWorks Animation series. This will be the first time that the franchise will be presented in the IMAX format in addition to a normal big-screen rollout.

MacGruber

Synopsis

Another Saturday Night Live skit makes the transition to the big screen with this Rogue Pictures production. Will Forte returns as MacGruber, a comedic spin on the '80s TV character MacGyver. Kristen Wiig, Val Kilmer, and Ryan Phillippe co-star.

Robin Hood

Synopsis

Ridley Scott helms a script by Sleep Cell scribes Ethan Reiff and Cyrus Voris as they tackle this revisionist take on the Robin Hood legend, which finds the noble Sheriff of Nottingham attempting to deal with the exploits of a less than virtuous Robin Hood while gradually being drawn into a heated love triangle involving the legendary thief and the beautiful Maid Marion.

Letters to Juliet

Iron Man 2

Synopsis

Robert Downey, Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow

Furry Vengeance

The Last Song

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Trump decides winner for 'Celebrity Apprentice'

NEW YORK (AP)—Rock star Bret Michaels made it to the finish line Sunday of "The Celebrity Apprentice" despite life-threatening illness and was rewarded with victory and \$250,000 for charity.

"You've done an amazing job in every single way," Donald Trump said before announcing his choice on a live segment of NBC's reality show. "A little flaky, but that's OK. ... You've also proven ... to be very brave. I appreciate that."

The other finalist, actress Holly Robinson Peete, has been "amazing," Trump said, and then rendered his decision.

"Holly, I have to tell you, we all love you. And Brett, I have to tell you—you're hired," Trump pronounced, drawing a lusty "whoop" from Michaels.

Michaels' appearance on the finale, which included live and taped segments, had been in question after he suffered a brain hemorrhage in April and was hospitalized again recently after suffering what doctors called a warning stroke. He faces surgery for a hole in his heart.



In this April 9, 2008 file photo, Poison lead singer Bret Michaels poses for a portrait in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles.

Trump didn't downplay the drama involving Michaels' health, asking the 47-year-old rock star of Poison fame if he was risking his life by coming on the finale against his doctors' advice.

"Lately it seems like me just standing me up is risking my life,"

Michaels replied, lightly, adding that it was worth the risk and he "came to win." He walked haltingly and with a slight limp.

His presence brought a moment of honest reality to a carefully constructed TV genre.

Robinson Peete, 45, said she and Michaels had become close during the series and there would be none of last season's animosity—a reference to finale fireworks between winner Joan Rivers and runner-up Annie Duke.

Robinson Peete teared up when she and Michaels took the stage before a studio audience in New York.

"Holly, that's so beautiful. You're crying," Trump observed.

"Well, I mean, who in America isn't?" she replied. Trump said that he'd never cried for his opponent.

"My 5-year-old son woke up this morning and said, 'Mom, I love you, but I'm kinda pulling for Bret.' How do you beat that?" Robinson Peete responded.

Both celebrities, who were playing to raise money for their

favored causes, came out on top. Michaels, who as a child was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, claimed the winner's prize for the American Diabetes Association, and Peete learned that her charitable group would receive a matching amount.

Trump said the maker of Snapple beverages had agreed to give a matching \$250,000 to HollyRod Foundation, whose mission is to support families who have a loved one with a serious medical condition. The actress has a son diagnosed as autistic.

The final challenge for "The Celebrity Apprentice" had required Michaels and Robinson Peete to each create a new flavor of Snapple and a marketing campaign for the soft drinks. Their versions are being sold for a limited period and highlight work their causes.

This season of "Celebrity Apprentice" began airing in March with 14 contestants, each competing in business-oriented tasks around Manhattan to raise money for and publicize their favorite causes. (AP)

'Lost' addresses years of questions in finale

NEW YORK (AP)—Jack Shephard saves the island.

The abandoned jetliner takes to the skies with many of the other castaways safely on board.

And back at home, everyone gathers for what appears to be a tender funeral reception for themselves.

In its finale Sunday, "Lost" chipped away at the mountain of questions that have risen since its premiere six years ago.

Not surprisingly, not all the mysteries were resolved. But in the end, everyone looked blissful and full of smiles as the room was flooded with light.

The two-and-one-half-hour-long conclusion should keep "Lost" fans busy theorizing long after the ABC series' final fade-out.



In this image provided by ABC, Michael Emerson appears as Benjamin Linus in the series finale of "Lost."

Lloyd Webber's condo in NYC's Trump Tower for sale

NEW YORK (AP)—A 5,000-square-foot condo owned by British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is on the market for a third time with a price tag of \$19 million.

Christie's Great Estates announced Friday that the duplex overlooking Central Park is for sale. The property is located on the 59th and 60th floors of Trump Tower.

The Lloyd Webber family bought the unit in 1987 for \$5.5 million. It was listed in 2000 for \$15 million

and in 2007 for \$22.5 million.

Agent Penny Toepfer said she believes the owner is "emotionally committed" to selling the property this time. The family has been reassessing its property needs following Andrew Lloyd Webber's treatment for prostate cancer, Christie's Great Estates said.

The condo features two floors connected by a curved staircase. The lower level has four bedrooms, while the upper level includes en-

tertaining and living spaces. The unit offers park views from almost every room and a sitting area and den with a wet bar and temperature-controlled wine cellar.

Lloyd Webber is perhaps best known for "Phantom of the Opera," a musical that has been seen by more than 100 million people worldwide. His

latest work, "Love Never Dies" - a sequel to "Phantom" - has received mixed reviews from London critics and is set to open in New York in spring 2011.



Lloyd Webber

According to his website, Lloyd Webber has won seven Tony Awards, three Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe and an Oscar.

Van carrying Clinton to Yale involved in accident

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut state police say a van carrying former President Bill Clinton was hit from behind on the Merritt Parkway while he was on his way to deliver the Class Day speech at Yale University.

Clinton told WTIC-TV on Sunday that the accident was "just a fluke" and that he is fine.

State police Lt. J. Paul Vance

says traffic was nearly at a standstill just north of New Haven because of another accident when a civilian vehicle struck the Secret Service van carrying Clinton at a very low rate of speed.

The van continued on to Yale, where Clinton gave his address to Yale seniors. He made no mention of the accident during his speech.

Damage is seen here on a vehicle carrying former President Bill Clinton in New Haven, Conn., Sunday, May 23, 2010.



Licensed tax professionals come with different titles

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Regarding your column of April 12, 2010, and the letter about the man who refuses to file tax returns, your answer was only partially correct. In addition to enrolled agents, tax returns are also prepared by other licensed professionals.

Certified public accountants are regulated by the various states and do a great deal of tax preparation.

Some tax attorneys may prepare income tax returns. The failure to file a tax return could be a crime, in which case the individual would need a tax attorney to represent him in trying to avoid a jail sentence. Communications to tax attorneys may be covered by the attorney-client privilege.

In addition, there are practitioners who are qualified both as attorneys and as CPAs. While many enrolled agents may also be CPAs, or even attorneys, you should not have restricted your recommendation to enrolled agents only.

SYDNEY S. TRAUM, JD-CPA, MIAMI BEACH, FLA.



Dear Abby

DEAR SYDNEY: My thanks to you and the countless other CPAs and attorneys who wrote to correct me. I apologize for the omission. After wading through the tidal wave of mail, I contacted the National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA) for clarification and was told:

"There are many outstanding tax practitioners who are attorneys or CPAs, some of whom are members of NAEA. We do not wish to imply in any way that they are less qualified or capable in the field of taxation. We just want to call attention to the profession of enrolled agents and let the public know that they are the only tax practitioners SPECIFICALLY licensed by the Department of the Treasury."

Readers, I hope this straightens out any confusion. Read on:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was intrigued by the letter from the woman whose boyfriend has refused to file tax returns for eight years. In addition to the civil ramifications of refusing to file the tax return as articulated in your response, it is a federal crime not to file one.

An individual who has the requisite income is punishable for up to three years in prison for failure to file a tax return for each year in which he or she is responsible for filing one. Additionally, it can be construed by the government as tax evasion, for which the maximum penalty includes five years imprisonment for each year in which the tax is evaded.

DENNIS C. KAINEN, MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year marriage to someone just like the man in that letter became a financial disaster. Even though I did file separately, I co-signed home, car and credit card loans with him. It has taken me more than 10 years to regain my good credit and restore my dignity.

If she does marry him, he will display immaturity in other areas—as a husband, a father, an employee—and she will look back (as I did) and realize what a horrible mistake she made. She should not ignore this important signpost! Please warn her to wake up before it's too late.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

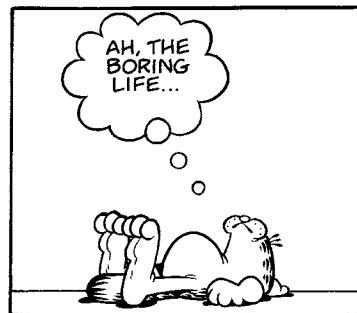
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Calvin and Hobbes



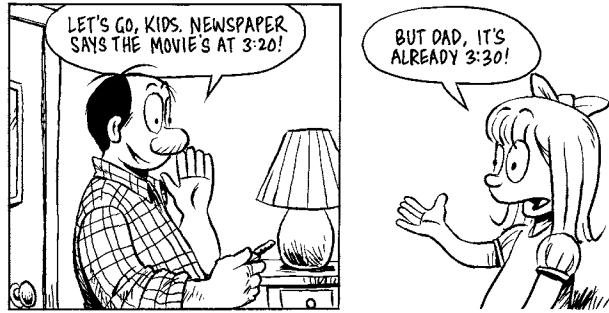
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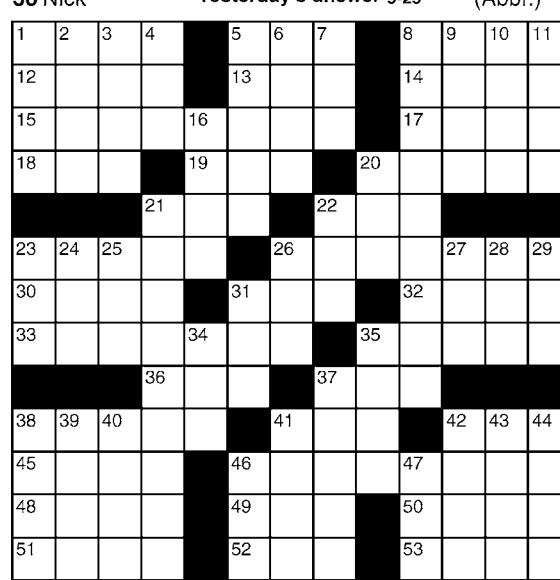
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41	Press for payment	2	Vicinity	22	Item for
1	Frilly, in a way	42	Wrestling	3	Urban area	26-Across
5	Silent	45	Out of control	4	Shrill bark	23 Mornings (Abbr.)
8	Carey or Barry-more	46	Divers'	5	Ballerina Shearer	24 "Unh-unh"
12	Soprano's solo	48	Unembellished	6	Coffee shop	25 Wildebeest
13	Raw rock	49	Toward the stern	7	vessels Encountered	26 Pickle holder
14	Libertine	50	Utter failure	8	Washes without water	27 Writer
15	"Don't touch" warning of a sort	51	Oklahoma city	9	Buscaglia	28 Blunder
17	Knitter's need	52	Prepare Easter eggs	10	Multi-national money	29 Shad offering
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19	Store sign abbr.			12	Doo follower	34 Doo
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Yesterday's answer 5-25



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STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lauryn Hill, 35; Anne Heche, 41; Mike Myers, 47; Leslie Uggams, 67

Happy Birthday: Put effort into your professional advancement. Don't take on a responsibility that will eat up your time, leaving little chance for you to follow your dreams. Keep things simple with strategy, organization and precision. Don't let a sudden change disrupt your plans, especially when dealing with home improvement or family time. Your numbers are 6,13,23,27,30,31,42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stop worrying about what has already taken place and prepare to put an end to the negativity. Letting matters escalate now will lead to a situation that cannot be reversed. Pleasing everyone will not be easy but can be done if you are willing to compromise. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Go after your personal and professional goals. Business prospects are favorable, so stay focused. You don't have to share your recipe for success; being mysterious will attract more interest. ☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Enhance your appearance or check out someone who interests you personally or professionally. Make some changes to your home or surroundings that will help you become more productive. Put what you've learned into practice. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): As long as you stay in control, you will avoid any mistakes or upsetting results. Love is in a high cycle, so do everything you can to enhance a relationship that means a lot to you. Push for

greater security and comfort and you will find the happiness and the stability you desire. ☀️☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be upfront about the way you feel and you will gain popularity. Being accommodating and generous will help you get along in a hostile environment. Listen to complaints and you will find solutions. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you have a good idea that can potentially make you extra cash, implement it immediately. Put your ideas on paper and you will be able to drum up the help and support required to make your dream come true. Love is in the stars. ☀️☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Avoid any sort of conflict. Getting into a senseless dispute will take its toll and may cost you emotionally. The sympathy you get for handling whatever you face gracefully and without malice will help you win in the end. ☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get out with friends or your lover and discuss some of the ideas you want to pursue. The feedback you get will enable you to move quickly toward a goal that may have seemed impossible in the past. Love is looking positive. ☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money, property and living up to the promises you have made will all lead to a better day and good results. Do your best and you will be privy to information to enable you to make financial plans or investments for future security. ☀️☀️

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will get the best results if you speak from

EUGENIA LAST



THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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the heart. Investing in something that is practical and serviceable will lead to greater income. A love relationship can be enhanced with additional affection and a commitment. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look at all the angles. Pleasing the one person who has been in your corner all along will be important if you don't want to jeopardize your relationship. Don't mistake kindness for love. ☀️☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You don't have to get everything done all at once. As long as you begin to chip away at your to-do list, you will make progress. Financial or medical matters will take a favorable turn if you address the agencies or institutions holding information pertinent to your situation. ☀️☀️

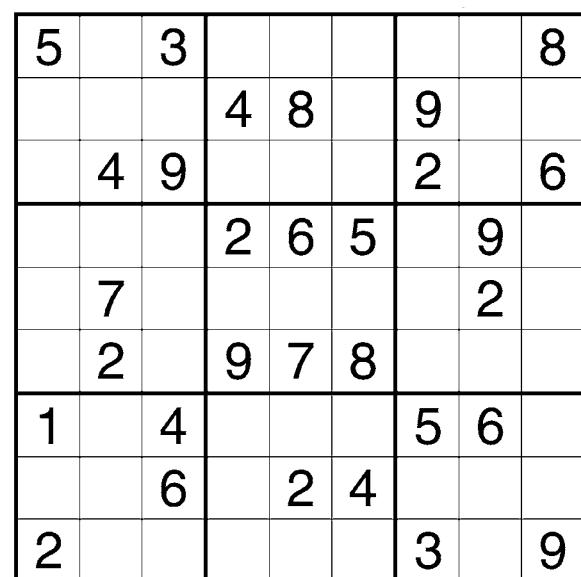
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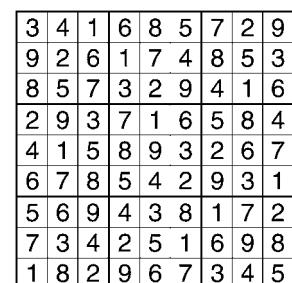
By Dave Green



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Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



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By DAVID OUELLET

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Stoudemire's 42 lead Phoenix past Lakers



PHOENIX (AP)—Amare Stoudemire had been criticized for just about everything: his defense, his rebounding, even his desire.

The Phoenix forward listened calmly all week, then responded with a monster game. Stoudemire attacked the Los Angeles Lakers relentlessly, matching his career playoff high with 42 points and grabbing 11 rebounds to power the Suns to a 118-109 victory Sunday night. The win sliced the Lakers' lead in the Western Conference finals to 2-1.

All that talk about a Lakers-Boston final has been put on hold. The Suns can pull even in the series with a victory at home in Game 4 on Tuesday night.

Stoudemire, with a bandage over a cut he received when his goggles slammed into his forehead on a drive to the basket, said he has worked through serious knee and eye injuries and kept his career at an All-Star level.

"You can never question my determination," he said, "my focus, my dedication. That's one of the reasons I've persevered through injuries and continue to try to improve every summer. My dedication to the game is at an all-time high."

Phoenix, dominated inside in the first two games, won with its big men, and a big advantage at the free throw line.

Robin Lopez, whose 7-foot presence gave the Suns some much-needed toughness inside, scored 20 on 8-of-10 shooting in 31 minutes, by far his most playing time since returning from a back injury at the start of the series. Phoenix made 37-

of-42 free throws, 14 of 18 by Stoudemire. The Lakers were 16 of 20 at the line.

Kobe Bryant had 36 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds. Pau Gasol scored 23 points, but the Lakers didn't get as much help from their supporting cast as they did in the first two games.

The Suns, the second-best 3-point shooting team in NBA history in the regular season, were just 5 of 20. But Jason Richardson was 4 of 7, including one with 26 seconds to go to put the lid on the triumph, snapping the Lakers' eight-game playoff winning streak.

"We certainly didn't come out to play the way I wanted," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said, "and we certainly didn't play the way I wanted at the end."

Richardson scored 19. Steve Nash had 17 points and 15 assists before banging his nose in a fourth-quarter collision with Derek Fisher. Nash said he didn't think it was broken but planned to see a specialist before practice on Monday.

"They attacked the hoop today," Jackson said, "and, you know, earned 42 foul shots. That's really the game plan. We seemed to be staying home on the 3-point shooters, and Stoudemire and Lopez had a night for them."

Stoudemire, who had just nine rebounds in the first two games and had been criticized for his lack of defense and absence of fire, scored repeatedly on drives to the basket, when he either made the basket, was fouled, or both. The All-Star power forward, who can opt out of the final year of his contract after this season, made 10-of-12 shots in the second half, scoring



Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire shoots around Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol, of Spain, during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals Sunday, May 23, 2010, in Phoenix.

16 in the third quarter and 13 in the fourth.

Phoenix coach Alvin Gentry said he knew Stoudemire would respond.

"He knew he didn't play well in L.A.," Gentry said.

Stoudemire had said Lamar Odom had "a lucky game" with 19 points and 19 rebounds in Game 1. Odom was far more complimentary after Game 3.

"He had a wonderful game," Odom said. "He got to the hole and was forceful. He played great."

Odom, meanwhile, made just 4-of-14 shots and had 10 points and six rebounds before fouling out. He and Andrew Bynum, bothered by his sore right knee,

both got in early foul trouble.

"It was one of those games," Odom said. "It happens."

Jackson said Bynum might not play in Game 4.

"I'll talk to him and see how he feels about it," Jackson said. "I think he was ineffective. There were some things that got by him."

As for Lopez, Gentry called the second-year pro's offense "a big surprise." Lopez had been out since March 28 with a bulging disk before playing in this series.

The Suns played a lot of zone defense after the Lakers averaged 126 points and shot 58 percent in the first two games. Los Angeles shot 48 percent in this one. The Lakers had a 27-4 advantage in second-chance points, but were outscored 18-3 on fast-break points.

"When they started making shots, we had to go to the zone," Gentry said. "Tonight it worked and we stuck with it."

Los Angeles, though, led 90-89 when Odom made two free throws with 8:47 to play.

Lopez entered the game for the struggling Channing Frye, and Phoenix took the lead for good 91-90 on Jared Dudley's baseline drive with 8:27 left.

Frye missed all seven of his shots, five of them 3s, and is shooting 1 for 20 in the series, 1 for 14 on 3s. He has missed 17 straight shots.

Phoenix scored the last seven points of the second quarter to lead 54-47 at the half and was up 86-84 after three quarters, thanks to two free throws by Leandro Barbosa with 1.5 seconds left following an ill-advised foul at midcourt by Shannon Brown.

off three break points in the final game, and also made her accumulate four match points before finally ending things with a forehand winner.

"It's just too tough to really play good, and then on top of that, to beat her," Schnyder said. "She has a great answer to my lefty serve, she has the backhand down the line, which hurts me a lot, and she's a great mover."

That last part hasn't always been the case on clay, but the 29-year-old Williams had neither of her sometimes-bothersome knees wrapped Sunday. She covered the court quite well, both side-to-side and moving forward, which helped her win 12 of 14 points at the net.

It's part of a resurgence on the slow surface this season for Williams: She is 13-2 on clay.

"Look at her results," Schnyder said. "She's coming into the tournament playing good clay-court matches, winning clay-court matches."

And she's dressed for success, you might say.

Venus Williams easily wins opener at French Open



P A R I S

(A P) —

Whistles and whispers circulated through the stands at Court Suzanne Lenglen on Sunday, a reaction brought about not by Venus Williams' play at the French Open, but rather by her outfit.

With a lacy, black overlay giving it the illusion of being see-through, and bright red trim on the bodice, Williams' corset-like get-up made her look as if she were ready to perform in a 19th century Parisian cancan chorus line. Her game, a mix of power and niftier-than-usual footwork on this day, was very 21st century, and befitting a star of the show.

The red clay of Roland Garros never has been Williams' best stage—her seven Grand Slam titles all came at Wimbledon or the U.S. Open. At this year's French Open, she is assured of at least one more

performance, thanks to a 6-3, 6-3 victory over former top-10 player Patty Schnyder of Switzerland in the first round.

Williams explained that her look was "about illusion," which, she noted, is "a lot of my motif this year" when it comes to clothes design. She also said she might not wear that particular dress again on court. Then again, perhaps she will. She's not sure. Either way, Williams comes to a tournament with eight to 10 outfits, just in case the victories keep coming.

And she plans a lengthy stay in Paris this time around, perhaps capped by a title.

"I always—goes without saying—believe I can win," said Williams, whose biggest hitches Sunday were eight double-faults.

Williams lost in the third round at each of the past three French Opens and only once has been beyond the quarterfinals in 13 previous trips: She lost to younger sister Serena

in the 2002 final. Still, Venus' hitting partner, David Witt, said after Sunday's victory: "If she goes out there and is smart and plays smart tennis, I think she can win the tournament."

There are others who will have some say in that, of course, including defending champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, who also won in straight sets Sunday, and the top-ranked Serena, whose first-round match is Monday. Venus is back at No. 2 in the rankings for the first time since May 2003, and was not shy about saying she wants to bump her sister off the top spot.

"It feels good to be moving up the ranks. Obviously, when you get to 2, of course, the next dream is 1," Venus said.

As for chasing Serena?

"When we're on the court, and when we're competing against each other, it's competition," Venus said. "Both of us feel that, you know: May the better player be the best."

Generally, the better play-

ers were, well, better than their opponents on Day 1 of the year's second Grand Slam tournament, when the sky was a cloudless blue and the temperature touched 80 degrees, making ice cream the snack of choice around the grounds.

Only one seeded man departed. No. 23 Ernest Gulbis of Latvia, who upset Roger Federer at Rome this month, stopped because of a right thigh injury while trailing Julien Benneteau of France 6-4, 6-2, 1-0. Two seeded women left: No. 10 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, a quarterfinalist a year ago, lost to Gisela Dulko of Argentina 6-1, 6-2, and No. 20 Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez of Spain lost to Akgul Amanmuradova of Uzbekistan 6-2, 6-4.

Winners included 2009 runner-up Robin Soderling, who stunned four-time champion Rafael Nadal in the fourth round last year; No. 8 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, No. 10 Marin Cilic and No. 11 Mikhail You-

zhny. Soderling won the first nine games and took 49 of 58 points on his serve en route to eliminating French wild card Laurent Recouderc 6-0, 6-2, 6-3.

Joining Kuznetsova in the women's second round were No. 15 Aravane Rezai, No. 19 Nadia Petrova, No. 26 Dominika Cibulkova and No. 30 Maria Kirilenko. Kuznetsova sputtered at the start against 2009 quarterfinalist Sorana Cirstea, losing the opening six points and falling behind 3-0, before reeling off nine games in a row.

Venus Williams' only real problems came at the very end against Schnyder, who fell to 0-11 against the American but certainly is no slouch, particularly on clay. The 31-year-old lefty from Switzerland has been a Grand Slam semifinalist, has been ranked No. 7, and leads active women in career clay-court victories.

She forced Williams to fend

Bay, Santana help Mets hold off Yankees



NEW YORK

(AP)—Jason Bay homered

twice off an ineffective CC Sabathia as the New York Mets held off the slumping New York Yankees 6-4 on Sunday behind Johan Santana's stellar pitching.

Shut down nearly all night by Santana, the Yankees rallied for three runs in the ninth inning before Francisco Rodriguez struck out Alex Rodriguez on a 3-2 breaking ball with runners at the corners to end it.

Alex Cora, a late addition to the lineup, got the offense started with a two-run single in a four-run second inning and the Mets took two of three at home in Citi Field for their first Subway Series victory since a rain-shortened two-game sweep at old Yankee Stadium in May 2008.

Red Sox 8, Phillies 3

At Philadelphia, Tim Wakefield pitched eight shutout innings for his first victory in nearly a year as Boston downed Philadelphia.

Kevin Youkilis tripled, homered and scored three runs for Boston.

Wakefield's allowed five hits and two walks in earning his first win since July 8, 2009, against Oakland. Wakefield (1-2) also earned his 190th career victory as the Red Sox took two of three from the Phillies.

Indians 4, Reds 3

At Cleveland, Jhonny Peralta singled in the go-ahead run in the sixth inning to help Cleveland snap a six-game losing streak and even the overall series with Cincinnati at 33-33.

David Huff (2-6) gave up three runs and six hits over six innings for his first win in six starts. The left-hander was 0-5 with a 7.33 ERA since his first career complete game April 15.

Scott Rolen hit two homers and drove in all three Reds runs, while starting pitcher Homer Bailey left in the third inning with tightness in his right shoulder.

Peralta lined a two-out single off Daniel Ray Herrera (0-2) to break a 3-3 tie.

Nationals 4, Orioles 3, 10 innings

At Washington, Josh Willingham homered in the 10th inning

as Washington overcame Matt Capps' first blown save to beat Baltimore.

Orioles closer Alfredo Simon left in the 10th after injuring his left hamstring while running to first base to cover on a grounder for the first out. Simon was replaced by Cla Meredith (0-2), who allowed Willingham's eighth homer, a drive to left-center on a 2-1 pitch.

Baltimore tied it in the ninth when Capps was unable to protect a 3-1 lead for his first blown save in 17 chances.

Brewers 4, Twins 3

At Minneapolis, Trevor Hoffman returned to help Milwaukee's patchwork pitching staff, and Corey Hart and Prince Fielder homered to help the Brewers win for the second time in 13 games.

Hoffman pitched a perfect eighth inning in his 1,000th career appearance, while Manny Parra (1-3) pitched two scoreless innings for the win.

John Axford allowed an RBI-single to Jason Kubel and the Twins had the bases loaded with two outs. But Axford struck out Trevor Plouffe to end it.

Justin Morneau had two hits, two walks and an RBI to raise his American League-leading average to .383, but he struck out with a runner on second in the ninth and the Twins left 14 on base.

Cardinals 6, Angels 5, 10 innings

At St. Louis, Felipe Lopez lofted a bases-loaded single in the 10th inning well over a drawn-in outfield, giving St. Louis a victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Ryan Franklin (3-0) struck out three and allowed a bunt hit in two innings, the longest outing of the season for the Cardinals' closer. St. Louis trailed by four runs in the fourth and two after seven, matching its biggest comeback of the season. The Cardinals took two of three from Los Angeles to wind up a 5-2 homestand.

Mike Napoli homered for the third straight game, a three-run shot off a 3-0 pitch from Chris Carpenter.

Cubs 5, Rangers 4

At Arlington, Texas, Carlos Silva became the first Cubs



New York Mets' on-deck batter David Wright (5) greets Jason Bay after Bay's second-inning, two-run home run off New York Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia in a baseball game at Citi Field in New York, Sunday, May 23, 2010.

starter in 43 years to have a perfect record after six decisions, working into the sixth inning of Chicago's interleague series-clinching victory over Texas.

Alfonso Soriano's two-run homer capped a four-run first that put Silva and the Cubs ahead to stay before the big right-hander had even thrown his first pitch.

Rockies 11, Royals 7

At Kansas City, Missouri, Jason Giambi homered and drove in four runs as Colorado roughed up Kansas City's AL Cy Young pitching award winner Zack Greinke.

Giambi got the Rockies started against Kansas City's ace with a three-run homer in the third inning and capped a five-run fourth with an RBI single.

Ian Stewart drove in three runs, Troy Tulowitzki homered and the Rockies had 15 hits, chasing Greinke (1-5) after 3 1-3 innings in his shortest outing in nearly two years.

Marlins 13, White Sox 0

At Chicago, Cody Ross hit two of Florida's five home runs and Jason Johnson pitched six sharp innings to help the Marlins end a three-game losing streak.

Ronny Paulino, Dan Uggla, and Jorge Cantu also homered for the Marlins, who scored a season-high 13 runs. Gaby Sanchez, Uggla and Ross all finished with three RBIs.

Rays 10, Astros 6

At Houston, John Jaso homered and drove in four runs, Ben Zobrist and Hank Blalock added solo shots as Tampa Bay handed Houston its eighth loss in 10 games.

Carl Crawford stole three bases and scored three runs as the Rays moved their major league-leading road record to 19-5. The Rays are 32-12 overall, the best start since Seattle won 33 of its first 44 in 2001. Pedro Feliz and Hunter Pence homered for the Astros.

Tigers 6, Dodgers 2

At Los Angeles, Rick Porcello fought off three line drives right back at him to get his first road victory of the season as Detroit got home runs from Miguel Cabrera and Magglio Ordonez to avoid a three-game sweep.

Porcello (4-4) allowed two runs and nine hits over six innings in his Dodger Stadium debut.

Hiroki Kuroda (5-2) gave up three runs and six hits in six innings, striking out five and walking one.

Athletics 3, Giants 0

At Oakland, California, Jake Fox hit a go-ahead RBI double in the seventh inning as Oakland completed a three-game sweep in the Bay Bridge Series.

The Giants, held to one run all series, lost their season-high fifth straight.

Adam Rosales led off the seventh with a single against Jonathan Sanchez (2-4), Mark

Ellis sacrificed and Fox followed with the double. Kurt Suzuki and Ryan Sweeney each singled in an insurance run in the eighth.

Ben Sheets struck out eight in six scoreless innings but left with the game scoreless.

Padres 8, Mariners 1

At Seattle, Mat Latos allowed a run and four hits over six effective innings as San Diego trounced Seattle.

Latos (4-3) walked two and struck out five in his fifth consecutive start of at least six innings pitched. It was also his fifth straight start allowing two runs or less.

Blue Jays 12, Diamondbacks 4

At Phoenix, Edwin Encarnacion and Jose Bautista each hit two-run homers as Toronto used a big day at the plate to avoid a three-game sweep.

Encarnacion hit three home runs Friday and added another Saturday. Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston thought about giving him Sunday off, but wisely put him in the lineup. He's 7 for 19 with six homers and 11 RBIs since returning from the disabled list May 17.

Bautista finished with four RBIs, including his two run homer during a five-run fifth inning that staked Shawn Marcum to a big lead. Bautista also had a two-run single in the third.

Pirates 3, Braves 2, 10 innings

At Pittsburgh, Ryan Doumit homered with two outs in the 10th inning off Takashi Saito for his third hit, helping Pittsburgh avoid a three-game sweep.

Doumit's first career game-ending homer was his fourth of the season and ended Atlanta's five-game winning streak and Pittsburgh's three-game losing streak. The Pirates averaged only two runs while dropping seven of their previous eight at home.

Saito (0-2) retired the first two batters in the 10th before Doumit drove a waist-high pitch into the right field seats, only the sixth homer by Pittsburgh in its last 21 home games.

Day wins Nelson, teenager Spieth ties for 16th

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Jason Day nearly dropped out of the Byron Nelson Championship before it began. He wound up winning the tournament—even though most folks likely will remember Jordan Spieth as the big winner.

Day fought through a rocky final round for a 2-over 72, but it was good enough to give the 22-year-old Australian the first win of his PGA Tour career.

Still, the 2010 Nelson will go

down for the remarkable Tour debut by Spieth, a 16-year-old junior at a local high school.

Spieth was within three shots of the lead on the final nine holes, but dropped back into a tie for 16th. He shot a 2-over 72 in the final round, his highest score of the tournament. His 4-under 276 was six strokes behind Day.

The maturity and moxie Spieth showed was a surprise for someone who spent last week playing in the state high school tournament. He showed it again

Sunday, bouncing back from trouble early and late, such as posting a birdie right after his first double-bogey of the tournament.

Spieth, the reigning U.S. Junior Amateur champion,

is a high-school junior more interested in playing for the University of Texas than turning pro—at least, he was coming into the week.

"It was awesome ... the entire round, the entire week," Spieth said. "Starting the week, I definitely would've taken a top-20, in a heartbeat. Obviously now, looking back, being a competitor, I look back at the mistakes I made that didn't give me an opportunity to win."

Day isn't exactly an old-timer himself. In fact, when he was 19, he won a Nationwide Tour event, making him the youngest winner of a PGA Tour-sanctioned tournament.

Day has been battling health problems all season, but he got a new diagnosis and a new batch of medicines Monday. The drugs left him so queasy Thursday morning that when he went to get an umbrella from his car, he thought about driving to his home in Fort Worth.

He was part of a seven-way

tie for first after the opening round, a shot back after the second round and ahead by himself after the third.

His final round wasn't pretty: six bogeys, including one on 18 after hitting his approach into the water. He got lucky that playing partner Blake Adams, a 34-year-old PGA Tour rookie, also put his approach into the water and wound up taking a double bogey. That dropped Adams (72) into a tie for second with Brian Gay, who shot a 63 Sunday, and Jeff Overton (71).



Team 1, Team Solid draw first blood

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

BINMI Team 1 and Team Solid pulled off easy wins at the start of the play-off round in the 2010 Marianas Variety Women's Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Team 1 played in the first game and demolished the Lady Eagles, 117-34, while Team Solid topped Basket Case, 59-46. The win advanced Team 1 against the top-seeded Green Team and the two teams were squaring off for a semis ticket in the winner's bracket last night. Team Solid was paired against the second-seeded Bon Faiyah and they collided in the second game yesterday.

Roxanne Duenas paced Team 1's first win in the double-elimination playoffs, firing 34 points. Lena Guzman added 29, and the three other Team 1 players also finished in double figures with Jamie Mendoza nailing 28 and Glorily Williams and Geraldine Faisao chipping 16 and 10, respectively.

The Lady Eagles had only captain Toi Smith scoring in double figures with 10 points. She had to carry the load for the Lady Eagles after Jacque Wonenberg left the game in the closing minutes of the first period to attend an athletics clinic. With Wonenberg out, the Lady Eagles were left with five players and they simply failed to match the scoring firepower of Team 1, which also came to the game with five players.

In the second game, the fifth-seeded Team Solid held the fourth-seeded Basket Case to five points in the third period to pull off an upset.

The game was still close at the break with Team Solid ahead by only three, 28-25, when only Mercedes Mesa and Ira Palero scored for Basket Case in the third period, making three and two



Team 1's Roxanne Duenas goes for a layup against the Lady Eagles' Toi Smith during the start of the playoff round in the women's caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

points, respectively.

In contrast, Team Solid delivered 19 markers in the third to take a 47-30 lead. In the fourth quarter, Basket Case out-scored Team Solid, 16-12, but the latter had already built a big lead enough to lift the team to a win.

Basket Case and the Lady Eagles must win their respective games tomorrow to remain in contention.

First Game

Team 1 117 – Duenas 34, Guzman 29, Mendoza 28, Williams 16,

Raphael Jones as they played for more than three hours. The finals match began at 12:30pm and ended almost 4pm with Miller escaping with a 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) win.

Jones played Sunday morning, too and downed Jake Lee in the semifinals, 6-3, 6-3, while Miller also posted a straight set victory in the Final Four against Clay McCullough-Stearns, 6-2, 6-0.

In the girls U18 finals, Thea Minor showed no love lost to sibling Theecel, as the former cruised to a 6-0, 6-0 victory. Thea marched into the finals after a 6-2, 6-0 win over Ilia Corella, while Theecel arranged a title duel with her younger sister after shutting out Amy Arenovski in the semis, 6-0, 6-0.

In the U12 division, Moris Villanueva challenged Quintin Ramsey in the boys finals, while the girls championship match featured Emily Jones and

Cheong, with a 6 of Clubs and Queen of Spades, was first to act and moved all-in with a straight draw.

Torres, who flopped the whole straight, instantly called and prayed for no miracles on the turn and river cards.

A blank Ace of Hearts came around on the turn, then a blank 7 of Diamonds came on the river, and just like that a new champion was crowned.

Torres shaved his mustache for the first time in years just before the final championship match.

"Of course I am elated to win, but more than that I am just very thankful—thankful to my family and to

Poker-Stars for putting on such a wonderful tournament here this week. Now I think I might just try my luck in Las Vegas at the World Series of Poker," Torres shared in an interview with Pokersstars.net after the big win.

The 33-year-old attorney has been playing poker for about three years and said he favors cash games over tournaments. When not practicing law or spending time with his family, Torres enjoys spending his free time on the farm.

Macau is one of two special administrative regions of The People's Republic of China, the other being Hong Kong.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	32	12	.727	—
New York	26	18	.591	6
Toronto	26	20	.565	7
Boston	24	21	.533	8 1/2
Baltimore	14	31	.311	18 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	26	18	.591	—
Detroit	25	19	.568	1
Chicago	18	25	.419	7 1/2
Kansas City	18	27	.400	8 1/2
Cleveland	16	26	.381	9

West Division

Texas	25	20	.556	—
Oakland	23	22	.511	2
Los Angeles	21	25	.457	4 1/2
Seattle	16	28	.364	8 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	26	17	.605	—
Atlanta	23	21	.523	3 1/2
Florida	23	22	.511	4
Washington	23	22	.511	4
New York	22	23	.489	5

Central Division

St. Louis	26	19	.578	—
Cincinnati	25	19	.568	1/2
Chicago	21	24	.467	5
Pittsburgh	19	25	.432	6 1/2
Milwaukee	17	27	.386	8 1/2
Houston	15	29	.341	10 1/2

West Division

San Diego	26	18	.591	—
Los Angeles	25	19	.568	1
San Francisco	22	21	.512	3 1/2
Colorado	22	22	.500	4
Arizona	20	25	.444	6 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland	4	Cincinnati	3
Pittsburgh	3	Atlanta	2
Washington	4	Baltimore	3
Boston	8	Philadelphia	3
Chicago	5	Texas	4
Florida	13	Chicago White Sox	0
Tampa Bay	10	Houston	6
Colorado	11	Kansas City	7
Milwaukee	4	Minnesota	3
St. Louis	6	L.A. Angels	5
Oakland	3	San Francisco	0
Detroit	6	L.A. Dodgers	2
San Diego	8	Seattle	1
Toronto	12	Arizona	4
N.Y. Mets	6	N.Y. Yankees	4

BYRON NELSON CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Final scores Sunday at the Byron Nelson Championship, a \$6.5 million PGA Tournament played at the par-70, 7,166-yard TPC Four Seasons Resort course:

LYN'S

From Page 28

In the last four seconds of the match, Rollers failed to pull up for a decent shot to bow out of competition in the 16-team league.

Besides, De Vero, four other players scored in double figures for Lyn's BBQ. Robert Naraja chipped in 14, making 12 from downtown as his triple in the third quarter kept Lyn's BBQ float. Dan Mateo also finished with 12, while Santos and

OL'ACES'

From Page 28

Terson Eina and Jessie Brel. Eina won the Finals MVP with his dominating performance on the mound against the Falcons.

Eina allowed two runs with 13 strikeouts, six hits, and a walk in the 2010 title game. Brel, meanwhile, ran off with the Most Runs Award after crossing the plate a league-high 26 times on the year.

Ol' Aces also won the pennant championship trophy after sweeping its games in the regular season.

As a team, the Falcons won both the runner-up championship and runner-up pennant championship trophies.

FINAL ROUND

Jason Day (500)	\$1,170,000	66-65-67-72-270
Brian Gay (208)	\$485,333	72-68-69-63-272
Jeff Overton (208)	\$485,333	67-65-69-71-272
Blake Adams (208)	\$485,333	66-64-70-72-272
Scott Verplank (105)	\$247,000	70-65-71-67-273
Cameron Beckman (105)	\$247,000	69-61-75-68-273
Ben Crane (80)	\$189,150	70-64-74-66-274
Dustin Johnson (80)	\$189,150	67-68-72-67-274
D.A. Points (80)	\$189,150	68-66-70-70-274
Arjun Atwal (80)	\$189,150	69-71-64-70-274
Tom Pernice, Jr. (80)	\$189,150	69-68-66-71-274
Marc Leishman (60)	\$131,625	67-67-72-69-275
Johnson Wagner (60)	\$131,625	70-69-67-69-275
Sean O'Hair (60)	\$131,625	70-65-69-71-275
Heath Slocum (60)	\$131,625	69-70-65-71-275
Chris Riley (52)	\$94,	

2010 NMIFA U18 Youth Football Spring League Festival



Matansa's Clay McCullough-Stearns, left, tries to keep the ball away from MP United's Josh Borja during their game in the 2010 NMIFA U18 Youth Football Spring League Festival on May 15 at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Two Paire players (red uniform) in action against Matansa's Rima Halaby.



A Matansa player is sandwiched by two Paire strikers during their girls U18 title game.



A Paire player goes for a header during their title game against MP United.



An MP United player kicks the ball during a playoff match against Matansa.



A Paire player gets ready for a penalty kick during their title game against Matansa.



Independents FC players wave to spectators before the start of its third place game against Matansa.



Matansa's Madison Smith, left, gets a hi-five from Rima Halaby after the former scored her second goal in the game.



Stoudemire's 42 lead Phoenix past Lakers

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

28 TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2010



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lopez keeps streak in junior tennis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mikayla Lopez extended her winning run this year, following a title-clinching triumph in the 14-and-under division of the 2010 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships on Sunday on the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Lopez, who notched the girls U14 titles in the Coconut Classic in February and in the CNMI Junior Championships last month, took her third age group crown this year after sweeping Melody Johnson, 6-1, 6-1.

The victory over Johnson allowed Lopez to win the title that eluded her last year when the latter bowed to Negahr Rastguy in the same tournament.

Lopez and Rastguy had an early rematch during Sunday's semifinals with the former winning, 6-1, 6-2, to advance against Johnson. Johnson claimed the second finals seat when she topped Alina Ishikawa in the other semis game Sunday morning, 6-1, 6-1.

See **LOPEZ** on Page 26



Mikayla Lopez returns to Melody Johnson during their girls U14 title game in the 2010 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships on Sunday on the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Torres wins Pokers-Stars Asia Pacific tilt

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan's Victorino Torres won \$416,000 and was declared the 2010 Poker-Stars Asia Pacific Poker Tour-Macau Season 4 Champion after defeating a pool of 342 players at the Grand Lisboa Hotel and Casino in Macau on Sunday.

"With some luck my way and a lot of help from the lord, I am truly thankful for the win. I represented the Northern Mariana Islands to the best that I could and I just played my best poker," said Torres in a message he wrote to his family and friends informing them of his big win.

Before being crowned the 2010 APPT Macau Main Event Champ, Torres came all the way back from second to last in chips when he first sat down at the final table with the rest of the last nine.



Torres

Later in the match with only five players left, Torres, who was the short stack, won a big three-hand pot that shot him up to second place in chips.

Then with just four players left, Torres put the short stack all-in with his Ace of Diamonds and 7 of Spades versus a suited King and 5 of Hearts.

Nothing hit the board and Torres knocked out the fourth chair with an Ace high.

Soon after, the second place winner, Chong Cheong from Hong Kong, knocked out the new short stack and third chair with a pair of Aces versus a pair of 2s.

When heads-up play began, Torres led 4.7 million to 2.1 million in chips over Cheong, or a 5-to-1 chip advantage.

Torres played out a very aggressive heads up strategy to smother his opponent with numerous all-in raises.

See **TORRES** on Page 26

Ol'Aces' Muna is Majors MVP



By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Little League baseball's Ol'Aces team successfully defended its Major Division championship, slugger Michael Muna was hailed as the most valuable player among the youngest hurlers of the 2010 Saipan Little League.

Muna dominated the regular season as his solid pitching and explosive offensive numbers made him the most decorated Little Leaguer for the 2010 season.

He was so good with the bat that he was adjudged this year's Homerun King after blasting four homers for the season. Muna was also an ace on the mound and won the Earned Run Average trophy with a perfect 0.00 ERA in 16 innings pitched.

Other Ol'Aces that shone through the season included

See **OL'ACES** on Page 26

Lyn's BBQ advances to Division A finals



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Lyn's BBQ will dispute the Division A title against Sonics, following an 85-80 win over Rollers during a playoff game in the 2010 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball on Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Christian De Vero topscored for Lynn's BBQ with 27 points, making clutch baskets in the home-stretch to power his team to a five-point win and a division finals stint against the Sonics. The Lyn's BBQ-Sonics title game has yet to be set, but the winner will face the Division B champion for the league crown. Division B had started its playoffs last night.

De Vero scored Lyn's BBQ's last 10 points with his last four points ending Rollers' chances in the finals.

After a Luizi Reyes split cut Lyn's BBQ's lead to one, 80-81, with 42 seconds remaining on the clock, De Vero connected on a short jumper on top of the key

with the 24-second shot clock ticking down, giving Lyn's BBQ more breathing space.

With Lyn's BBQ ahead, 83-80, with 20 seconds left, Rollers failed to make a basket in its two offensive sets. First Edwin Santos deflected a crosscourt pass intended to Manny Matagolai, who was at the left wing positioning himself for a three-point shot. Rollers tried again with Savali Talalemoto providing a screen on Matagolai on top of the key, but the latter's triple attempt hit nothing but air, returning possession to Lyn's BBQ.

With 14 seconds left, Rollers put up a backcourt pressure defense, but Lyn's BBQ escaped the trap with Noel David receiving the outlet pass from Santos and then feeding De Vero for a fastbreak and uncontested layup.

See **LYN'S** on Page 26

Lyn's BBQ's Edwin Santos, right, tries to barrel his way inside against the defense of Rollers' Savali Talalemoto during their playoff game in the Navy Hill caging on Sunday night at the Garapan basketball court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO